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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
9 November 2000 (09.11.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/66604 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07H 19/06, 21/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00225

(22) International Filing Date: 4 May 2000 (04.05.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PA 1999 00603 4 May 1999 (04.05.1999) DK
PA 1999 01225 1 September 1999 (01.09.1999) DK
PA 2000 00032 11 January 2000 (11.01.2000) DK

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE (utility model), DK, DK (utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (utility model), ES, FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KR (utility model), KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— With international search report.
— Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 11 January 2001

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 00/66604 A3

(54) Title: L-RIBO-LNA ANALOGUES

(57) Abstract: Nucleoside analogues wherein a 2'-4'-bridge locks the conformation of the nucleoside have been synthesised with an inverted stereochemistry at C-3' and C-4' to provide the L-ribo-configurated LNA nucleoside. The synthesis of L-ribo-LNA nucleoside is applicable to all nucleobases including thymine, adenine, cytosine, guanine and uracil. These Locked Nucleic Acids (LNAs) with L-ribo-configuration have been utilised in the synthesis of 2'-O-4'-C-methylene- α -L-ribofuranosyl nucleotides as well as oligonucleotides with L-ribo-LNA nucleosides included therein. Methods of targeting complementary nucleic acids are greatly improved by use of these L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides due to their high affinity for complementary nucleic acids.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/DK 00/00225

A. CLASSIFICATION F SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C07H19/06 C07H21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C07H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 14226 A (WENGEL JESPER) 25 March 1999 (1999-03-25) the whole document ---	1-62
X	KOSHKIN A ET AL: "LNA (Locked Nucleic Acids): Synthesis of the Adenine, Cytosine, Guanine, 5-Methylcytosine, Thymine and Uracil Bicyclonucleoside Monomers, Oligomerisation, and Unprecedented Nucleic Acid Recognition" TETRAHEDRON, vol. 54, 1998, pages 3607-3630, XP002901183 the whole document ---	1-62 -/-



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 August 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

01 11 2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Application No
PCT/DK 00/00225

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>SINGH S K ET AL: "Synthesis of 2'-Amino-LNA: A Novel Conformationally Restricted High-Affinity Oligonucleotide Analogue with a Handle" <i>J. ORG. CHEM.</i>, vol. 63, 1998, pages 10035-10039, XP002901184 the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	1-62
X	<p>OBIKA S ET AL: "Stability and structural features of the duplexes containing nucleoside analogues with a fixed N-type conformation, 2'-O,4'-C-methyleneribonucleosides" <i>TETRAHEDRON LETTERS</i>, vol. 39, 1998, pages 5401-5404, XP002901185 the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	1-62
X	<p>KOSHKIN A A ET AL: "LNA (Locked Nucleic Acid): An RNA Mimic Forming Exceedingly Stable LNA:LNA Duplexes" <i>J. AM. CHEM. SOC.</i>, vol. 120, 1998, pages 13252-13253, XP002901186 the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	1-62
X	<p>SINGH S K ET AL: "LNA (Locked Nucleic Acids): synthesis and high-affinity nucleic acid recognition" <i>CHEM. COMMUN.</i>, 1998, pages 455-456, XP002901187 the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	1-62
X	<p>WO 98 39352 A (IMANISHI TAKESHI) 11 September 1998 (1998-09-11) the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	1-34
X	<p>OBIKA S ET AL: "Synthesis of 2'-O,4'-C-Methyleneuridine and -cytidine. Novel Bicyclic Nucleosides Having a Fixed C3,-endo Sugar Puckering" <i>TETRAHEDRON LETTERS</i>, vol. 38, no. 50, 1997, pages 8735-8738, XP002901188 the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	23-32
X	<p>SINGH S K ET AL: "Synthesis of Novel Bicyclo(2.2.1) Ribonucleosides: 2'-Amino- and 2'-Thio-LNA Monomeric Nucleosides" <i>J. ORG. CHEM.</i>, vol. 63, 1998, pages 6078-6079, XP002901189 claims 1,23-32</p> <p>---</p>	2-22, 33-62
	-/-	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/DK 00/00225

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	RAJWANSHI V K ET AL: "Synthesis and restricted furanose conformations of three novel bicyclic thymine nucleosides: a xylo-LNA nucleoside, a 3'-O,5'-C-methylene-linked nucleoside, and a 2'-O,5'-C-methylene-linked nucleoside" J. CHEM. SOC. PERKIN TRANS., vol. 1, 1999, pages 1407-1414, XP002901190 claims 1,23-32 ---	2-22, 33-62
X	KOSHKIN A A ET AL: "Novel Convenient Syntheses of LNA (2.2.1) Bicyclo Nucleosides" TETRAHEDRON LETTERS, vol. 39, 1998, pages 4381-4384, XP002901191 the whole document	1,23-32
A	---	2-22, 33-62
X	KUMAR R ET AL: "The first analogues of LNA (Locked Nucleic Acids): phosphorothioate-LNA and 2'-Thio-LNA" BIOORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY LETTERS, vol. 8, 1998, pages 2219-2222, XP002901192 claims 1,23-32 -----	2-22, 33-62

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/DK 00/00225**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos. **1-62**
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-62

Present claims 1-62 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds. In fact, the claim contains so many options, variables, possible permutations and provisos that a lack of clarity and conciseness within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which appear to be clear and concise, namely the compounds recited in the examples.

The initial phase of the search revealed a very large number of documents relevant to the issue of novelty. So many documents were retrieved that it is impossible to determine which parts of the claim(s) may be said to define subject-matter for which protection might legitimately be sought (Article 6 PCT). For these reasons, a meaningful search over the whole breadth of the claim(s) is impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members				International Application No	
				PCT/DK 00/00225	
Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date	
WO 9914226 A	25-03-1999	AU	9063398 A	05-04-1999	
		EP	1015469 A	05-07-2000	

WO 9839352 A	11-09-1998	AU	720472 B	01-06-2000	
		AU	6120998 A	22-09-1998	
		EP	1013661 A	28-06-2000	
		JP	10304889 A	17-11-1998	



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification: C07H 19/00	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/66604
		(43) International Publication Date: 09 Nov 2000 (09.11.2000)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00225 (22) International Filing Date: 04 May 2000 (04.05.2000)		Published
(30) Priority Data: PA 1999 00603 04 May 1999 (04.05.1999) DK PA 1999 01225 01 September 1999 (01.09.1999) DK PA 2000 00032 11 January 2000 (11.01.2000) DK		
(60) Parent Application or Grant EXIQON A/S [/]; Ø. WENGEL, Jesper [/]; Ø. WENGEL, Jesper [/]; Ø. PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT & PARTNERS A/S ; Ø.		

(54) Title: L-RIBO-LNA ANALOGUES

(54) Titre: ANALOGUES DE L-RIBO-LNA

(57) Abstract

Nucleoside analogues wherein a 2'-4'-bridge locks the conformation of the nucleoside have been synthesised with an inverted stereochemistry at C-3' and C-4' to provide the L-ribo-configurated LNA nucleoside. The synthesis of L-ribo-LNA-nucleoside is applicable to all nucleobases including thymine, adenine, cytosine, guanine and uracil. These Locked Nucleic Acids (LNAs) with L-ribo-configuration have been utilised in the synthesis of 2'-O-4'-C-methylene-'alpha'-L-ribofuranosyl nucleotides as well as oligonucleotides with L-ribo-LNA nucleosides included therein. Methods of targeting complementary nucleic acids are greatly improved by use of these L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides due to their high affinity for complementary nucleic acids.

(57) Abrégé

Selon l'invention, des analogues de nucléoside, dans lesquels un pont 2'-4' verrouille la conformation du nucléoside, ont été synthétisés par stéréochimie inversée aux niveaux C-3' et C-4' de manière à former le nucléoside LNA à structure L-ribo. La synthèse du nucléoside L-ribo-LNA est applicable à toutes les nucléobases, telles que la thymine, l'adénine, la cytosine, la guanine et l'uracile. Ces acides nucléiques verrouillés (LNA) à structure L-ribo ont été utilisés dans la synthèse de nucléotides 2'-O-4'-C-méthylène-'alpha'-L-ribofuranosyle et d'oligonucléotides comprenant des nucléosides L-ribo-LNA. Les procédés de ciblage d'acides nucléiques complémentaires sont nettement améliorés grâce à l'utilisation de ces oligonucléotides modifiés L-ribo-LNA, étant donné leur grande affinité avec lesdits acides nucléiques complémentaires.

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : C07H 19/00		A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/66604 (43) International Publication Date: 9 November 2000 (09.11.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00225 (22) International Filing Date: 4 May 2000 (04.05.00)		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KR (Utility model), KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(30) Priority Data: PA 1999 00603 4 May 1999 (04.05.99) DK PA 1999 01225 1 September 1999 (01.09.99) DK PA 2000 00032 11 January 2000 (11.01.00) DK		Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): EXIQON A/S [DK/DK]; Bygstubben 9, DK-2950 Vedbæk (DK).			
(72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): WENGEL, Jesper [DK/DK]; Rugmarken 48, DK-5260 Odense S (DK).			
(74) Agent: PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT & PARTNERS A/S; Sankt Annæ Plads 11, P.O. Box 3007, DK-1021 Copenhagen K (DK).			

(54) Title: L-RIBO-LNA ANALOGUES

(57) Abstract

Nucleoside analogues wherein a 2'-4'-bridge locks the conformation of the nucleoside have been synthesised with an inverted stereochemistry at C-3' and C-4' to provide the L-ribo-configured LNA nucleoside. The synthesis of L-ribo-LNA-nucleoside is applicable to all nucleobases including thymine, adenine, cytosine, guanine and uracil. These Locked Nucleic Acids (LNAs) with L-ribo-configuration have been utilised in the synthesis of 2'-O-4'-C-methylene- α -L-ribofuranosyl nucleotides as well as oligonucleotides with L-ribo-LNA nucleosides included therein. Methods of targeting complementary nucleic acids are greatly improved by use of these L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides due to their high affinity for complementary nucleic acids.

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L-RIBO-LNA ANALOGUES

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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5 The present invention relates to the field of L-ribo-configurated bicyclic nucleoside analogues and to the synthesis of such nucleoside analogues which are useful in the formation of synthetic oligonucleotides capable of forming nucleobase specific duplexes with complementary single stranded and double stranded nucleic acids. The invention also relates to the field of L-ribo-configurated bicyclic nucleoside analogues which may be 10 used as therapeutic drugs and which may be incorporated in oligonucleotides.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Synthetic oligonucleotides are widely used compounds in disparate fields such as 15 molecular biology and DNA-based diagnostics and therapeutics.

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General considerations

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To be useful in the extensive range of the different applications outlined above, 20 oligonucleotides have to satisfy a large number of different requirements. As therapeutics, for instance, a useful oligonucleotide must be able to penetrate the cell membrane, have 35 good resistance to extra- and intracellular nucleases and preferably have the ability to recruit endogenous enzymes like RNaseH. In DNA-based diagnostics and molecular biology, other properties are important such as, for instance, the ability of oligonucleotides 40 to act as efficient substrates for a wide range of different enzymes evolved to act on natural nucleic acids, such as e.g. polymerases, kinases, ligases and phosphatases. The fundamental property of oligonucleotides, however, which underlies all uses is their ability 45 to recognise and hybridise sequence specifically to complementary single stranded nucleic acids employing either Watson-Crick hydrogen bonding (A-T and G-C) or other 50 hydrogen bonding schemes such as the Hoogsteen mode. There are two important terms, affinity and specificity, commonly used to characterise the hybridisation properties of a given oligonucleotide. Affinity is a measure of the binding strength of the oligonucleotide to its complementary target sequence (expressed as the thermostability (T_m) of the duplex). Each nucleobase pair in the duplex adds to the thermostability and thus affinity

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5 increases with increasing size (number of nucleobases) of the oligonucleotide. Specificity
is a measure of the ability of the oligonucleotide to discriminate between a fully
10 complementary and a mismatched target sequence. In other words, specificity is a
measure of the loss of affinity associated with mismatched nucleobase pairs in the target.

15 5 At constant oligonucleotide size, the specificity increases with increasing number of
mismatches between the oligonucleotide and its targets (i.e. the percentage of
mismatches increases). Conversely, specificity decreases when the size of the
oligonucleotide is increased at a constant number of mismatches (i.e. the percentage of
10 mismatches decreases). Stated another way, an increase in the affinity of an
oligonucleotide occurs at the expense of specificity and vice-versa.

20 25 Given the shortcomings of natural oligonucleotides, new approaches for enhancing
specificity and affinity are highly desirable for DNA-based therapeutics, diagnostics and
15 for molecular biology techniques in general.

Conformationally restricted nucleosides

30 35 It is known that oligonucleotides undergo a conformational transition in the course of
20 hybridising to a target sequence, from the relatively random coil structure of the single
stranded state to the ordered structure of the duplex state.

40 45 Thus, conformational restriction has in recent years been applied to oligonucleotides in
the search for analogues displaying improved hybridisation properties compared to the
25 unmodified (2'-deoxy)oligonucleotides. For example bicyclo[3.3.0]nucleosides with an
additional C-3',C-5'-ethano-bridge (M. Tarköy, M. Bolli, B. Schweizer and C. Leumann,
Helv. Chem. Acta, 1993, **76**, 481; Tarköy and C. Leumann, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*,
1993, **32**, 1432; M. Egli, P. Lubini, M. Dobler and C. Leumann, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1993,
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30 and C. Leumann, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1995, **34**, 694; M. Bolli, P. Lubini and C.
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50 35 bicarbocyclo[3.1.0]nucleosides with an additional C-1',C-6'- or C-6',C-4'-methano-bridge

5 (K.-H. Altmann, R. Kesselring, E. Francotte and G. Rihs, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1994, **35**, 2331; K.-H. Altmann, R. Imwinkelried, R. Kesselring and G. Rihs, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1994, **35**, 7625; V. E. Marquez, M. A. Siddiqui, A. Ezzitouni, P. Russ, J. Wang, R. W. Wagner and M. D. Matteucci, *J. Med. Chem.*, 1996, **39**, 3739; A. Ezzitouni and V. E. Marquez, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, 1997, 1073), bicyclo[3.3.0]- and [4.3.0] nucleoside containing an additional C-2',C-3'-dioxalane ring synthesised as a dimer with an unmodified nucleoside where the additional ring is part of the internucleoside linkage replacing a natural phosphordiester linkage (R. J. Jones, S. Swaminathan, J. F. Milligan, S. Wadwani, B. S. Froehler and M. Matteucci, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1993, **115**, 9816; J. Wang and M. D. Matteucci, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 1997, **7**, 229), dimers containing a bicyclo[3.1.0]nucleoside with a C-2',C-3'-methano bridge as part of amide- and sulfonamide-type internucleoside linkages (C. G. Yannopoulos, W. Q. Zhou, P. Nower, D. Pecho, Y. S. Sanghvi and G. Just, *Synlett*, 1997, 378), bicyclo[3.3.0] glucose-derived nucleoside analogue incorporated in the middle of a trimer through formacetal internucleoside linkages (C. G. Yannopoulos, W. Q. Zhou, P. Nower, D. Pecho, Y. S. Sanghvi and G. Just, *Synlett*, 1997, 378) and bicyclic[4.3.0]- and [3.3.0]nucleosides with additional C-2',C-3'-connected six- and five-membered ring (P. Nielsen, H. M. Pfundheller, J. Wengel, *Chem. Commun.*, 1997, 826; P. Nielsen, H. M. Pfundheller, J. Wengel, XII International Roundtable: Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Their Biological Applications; La Jolla, California, September 15-19, 1996; Poster PPI 43) have been synthesised and incorporated into oligodeoxynucleotides. Unfortunately, oligonucleotides comprising these analogues form in most cases less stable duplexes with complementary nucleic acids compared to the unmodified oligonucleotides. In cases where a moderate improvement in duplex stability is observed, this relates only to either a DNA or an RNA target, or it relates to fully but not partly modified oligonucleotides or vice versa.

40 An appraisal of most of the reported analogues are further complicated by the lack of data on analogues with G, A and C nucleobases and lack of data indicating the specificity and mode of hybridisation. In many cases, synthesis of the reported monomer analogues is 30 very complex while in other cases the synthesis of fully modified oligonucleotides is 45 incompatible with the widely used phosphoramidite chemistry standard.

50 Recently, oligomers comprising Locked Nucleic Acids (LNA) have been reported (Nielsen, P., Pfundheller, H. M., Olsen, C. E. and Wengel, J., *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, 1997, 35 3423; Nielsen, P., Pfundheller, H. M., Wengel, J., *Chem. Commun.*, 1997, 9, 825;

5 Christensen, N. K., Petersen, M., Nielsen, P., Jacobsen, J. P. and Wengel, J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1998, 120, 5458; Koshkin, A. A. and Wengel, J., *J. Org. Chem.*, 1998, 63, 2778; Obika, S., Morio, K.-I., Hari, Y. and Imanishi, T., *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 1999, 515). Interestingly, incorporation of LNA monomers containing a 2'-O,4'-C-methylene

10 5 bridge into an oligonucleotide sequence led to unprecedented improvement in the hybridisation ability of the modified oligonucleotide (Singh, S. K., Nielsen, P., Koshkin, A. A., Olsen, C. E. and Wengel, J., *Chem. Commun.*, 1998, 455; Koshkin, A. K., Singh, S. K., Nielsen, P., Rajwanshi, V. K., Kumar, R., Meldgaard, M., Olsen, C. E., and Wengel, J., *Tetrahedron*, 1998, 54, 3607; Koshkin, A. A., Rajwanshi, V. K., and Wengel, J., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1998, 39, 4381; Singh, Sanjay K. and Wengel, J., *Chem. Commun.*, 1998, 1247; Kumar, R., Singh, S. K., Koshkin, A. A., Rajwanshi, V. K., Meldgaard, M., and Wengel, J., *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 1998, 8, 2219; Obika, S. et al. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1997, 38, 8735; Obika, S. et al. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1998, 39, 5401; Singh, S. K., Kumar, R., and Wengel, J., *J. Org. Chem.*, 1998, 63, 6078; Koshkin, A. A., Nielsen, P.,

15 15 Meldgaard, M., Rajwanshi, V. K., Singh, S. K., and Wengel, J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1998, 120, 13252; Singh, S. K., Kumar, R., and Wengel, J., *J. Org. Chem.*, 1998, 63, 10035). Oligonucleotides comprising these LNA monomers and the corresponding 2'-thio-LNA

20 30 analogue form duplexes with complementary DNA and RNA with thermal stabilities not previously observed for bi- or tricyclic nucleosides modified oligonucleotides

25 20 (ΔT_m /modification = +3 to +11 °C) and show improved selectivity.

35 In a series of papers, Seela et al. have studied xylo-DNA (Figure 1, Base=adenin-9-yl, cytosin-1-yl, guanin-9-yl or thymin-1-yl) comprising one or more 2'-deoxy- β -D-xylofuranosyl nucleotide monomers (Rosemeyer, H.; Seela, F. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1991, 74, 748; Rosemeyer, H.; Krecmerova, M.; Seela, F. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1991, 74, 2054; Seela, F.; Wörner, Rosemeyer, H. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1994, 77, 883; Seela, F.; Heckel, M.; Rosemeyer, H. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1996, 79, 1451; Rosemeyer, H.; Seela, F. *Nucleosides Nucleotides*, 1995, 14, 1041; Schoeppe, A.; Hinz, H.-J.; Rosemeyer, H.; Seela, F. *Eur. J. Biochem.* 1996, 239, 33). Compared with the corresponding natural 2'-deoxy- β -D-

40 45 ribofuranosyl oligonucleotides, xylo-DNA, generally, display a mirror-image-like secondary structure, entropically favourable duplex formation, increased stability towards exonucleases, and, for oligonucleotides comprising a small number of 2'-deoxy- β -D-xylofuranosyl monomers, decreased thermal affinity towards complementary DNA (Rosemeyer, H.; Seela, F. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1991, 74, 748; Rosemeyer, H.; Krecmerova, M.; Seela, F. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1991, 74, 2054; Seela, F.; Wörner, Rosemeyer, H. *Helv.*

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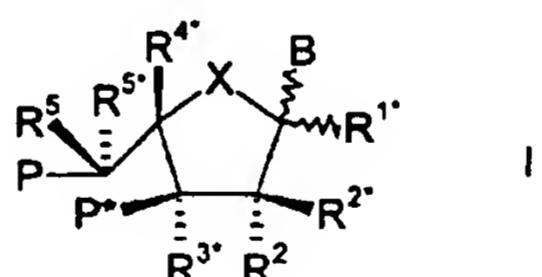
5 *Chem. Acta* 1994, 77, 883; Seela, F.; Heckel, M.; Rosemeyer, H. *Helv. Chem. Acta* 1996, 79, 1451).

10 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

5 Based on the above and on the remarkable properties of the 2'-O,4'-C-methylene bridged
 15 LNA monomers it was decided to synthesise oligonucleotides comprising one or more 2'-
 O,4'-C-methylene- α -L-ribofuranosyl nucleotide monomer(s). Computer modelling on α -L-
 20 ribo-LNA monomers likewise indicates an S-type conformation of the furanose ring. Thus,
 25 the aim of this work was to synthesise 2'-O,4'-C-methylene- α -L-ribofuranosyl nucleotide
 monomer and to study the thermal stability of oligonucleotides comprising this monomer.
 The results show that modified L-ribo-LNA is useful for high-affinity targeting of
 complementary nucleic acids. When taking into consideration the inverted
 stereochemistry at C-3' and C-4' this is a surprising fact.

15 Thus, the present inventors have now provided novel LNA nucleoside analogues (L-ribo-
 20 LNA) and oligonucleotides having L-ribo-LNA nucleoside analogues included therein.
 25 The novel L-ribo-LNA nucleoside analogues have been synthesised with thymine as the
 nucleobase but can easily be synthesised with the other four nucleobases thereby
 30 providing a full set of nucleoside analogues for incorporation in oligonucleotides.

35 The present invention relates to oligomers comprising at least one nucleoside analogue
 (hereinafter termed "L-ribo-LNA") of the general formula I



45 25 wherein X is selected from -O-, -S-, -N(R^N)-, -C(R⁶R⁶)-;

50 B is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkoxy, optionally
 55 substituted C₁₋₄-alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-acyloxy, nucleobases, DNA intercalators,
 photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups,
 30 reporter groups, and ligands;

5

P designates the radical position for an internucleoside linkage to a succeeding monomer, or a 5'-terminal group, such internucleoside linkage or 5'-terminal group optionally including the substituent R⁵ or equally applicable the substituent R^{5'};

10

5

P* designates an internucleoside linkage to a preceding monomer, or a 3'-terminal group;

15

R² and R⁴ designate biradicals consisting of 1-4 groups/atoms selected from -C(R^aR^b)-, -C(R^a)=C(R^b)-, -C(R^a)=N-, -O-, -Si(R^a)₂-, -S-, -SO₂-, -N(R^a)-, and >C=Z,

10

wherein Z is selected from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^a)-, and R^a and R^b each is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl,

20

15

heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy,

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nitro, azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted, and where two geminal substituents R^a and R^b together may designate optionally substituted methylene olefin (=CH₂);

35

25 each of the substituents R¹*, R², R³*, R⁵, R^{5'}, R⁶, and R^{6'} which are present is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro, azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted, and

5

where two geminal substituents together may designate oxo, thioxo, imino, or optionally substituted methylene, or together may form a spiro biradical consisting of a 1-5 carbon atom(s) alkylene chain which is optionally interrupted and/or terminated by one or more heteroatoms/groups selected from -O-, -S-, and -(NR^N)- where R^N is selected from

10

hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl, and where two adjacent (non-geminal) substituents may designate an additional bond resulting in a double bond; and R^N, when present, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl;

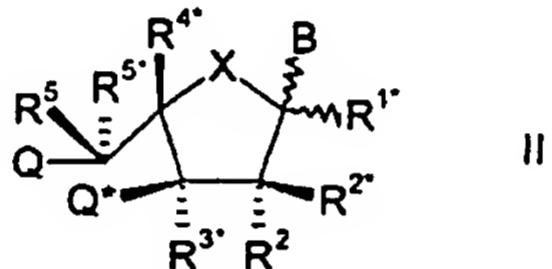
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and basic salts and acid addition salts thereof.

20

The present invention furthermore relates to nucleoside analogues (L-ribo-LNAs) of the general formula II

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wherein the substituent B is selected from nucleobases, DNA intercalators,

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photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands;

35

X is selected from -O-, -S-, -N(R^N)-, and -C(R³R⁵)-;

40

each of Q and Q' is independently selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Prot-O-, Act-O-, mercapto, Prot-S-, Act-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Prot-N(R^H)-, Act-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyoxy,

45

monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands, carboxy, sulphono, hydroxymethyl, Prot-O-CH₂-, Act-O-CH₂-, aminomethyl, Prot-N(R^H)-CH₂-, Act-N(R^H)-CH₂-, carboxymethyl, sulphonomethyl, where Prot is a protection group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, Act is an activation group for -OH, -SH, and -

50

NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl; and R^{2''} and R^{4''} together designate a biradical selected from -O-, -(CR¹R²)_{r+s+1}-, -(CR¹R²)_r-O-(CR¹R²)_s-.

-(CR'R')_r-S-(CR'R')_s-, -(CR'R')_r-N(R')-(CR'R')_s-, -O-(CR'R')_{r+s}-O-, -S-(CR'R')_{r+s}-O-, -O-(CR'R')_{r+s}-S-, -N(R')-(CR'R')_{r+s}-O-, -O-(CR'R')_{r+s}-N(R')-, -S-(CR'R')_{r+s}-S-, -N(R')-(CR'R')_{r+s}-N(R')-, -N(R')-(CR'R')_{r+s}-S-, and -S-(CR'R')_{r+s}-N(R')-:

5 wherein each R' is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, azido, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and/or two adjacent (non-geminal) R' may together designate a double bond, and each of r and s
10 is 0-3 with the proviso that the sum $r+s$ is 1-4;

each of the present substituents R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^5 , R^5' , R^6 , and R^6' is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-12} -alkoxy, C_{2-12} -alkenyloxy, carboxy, C_{1-12} -

15 alkoxy carbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkyl carbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, aryl carbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryl carbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonyl amino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphonato, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro,

30 carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro,
20 azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators, photochemically active
groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands
where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted, and where two geminal
35 substituents together may designate oxo, thioxo, imino, or optionally substituted
methylene, or together may form a spiro biradical consisting of a 1-5 carbon atom(s)

25 alkylene chain which is optionally interrupted and/or terminated by one or more heteroatoms/groups selected from -O-, -S-, and -(NR^N)- where R^N is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl, and where two adjacent (non-geminal) substituents may designate an additional bond resulting in a double bond; and R^{N*}, when present and not involved in a biradical, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl;

30 and basic salts and acid addition salts thereof;

with the proviso that any chemical group (including any nucleobase), which is reactive under the conditions prevailing in oligonucleotide synthesis, is optionally functional group.

35 protected

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The present invention also relates to the use of the nucleoside analogues (L-ribo-LNAs) for the preparation of oligomers, and the use of the oligomers as well as the nucleoside analogues (L-ribo-LNAs) in diagnostics, molecular biology research, and in therapy.

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5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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When used herein, the term "L-ribo-LNA" (L-ribo-configured Locked Nucleoside Analogues) refers to L-ribo-configurated bicyclic nucleoside analogues, either

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incorporated in the oligomer of the invention (general formula I) or as discrete chemical species (general formula II). The term "monomeric L-ribo-LNA" specifically refers to the latter case.

Oligomers and nucleoside analogues

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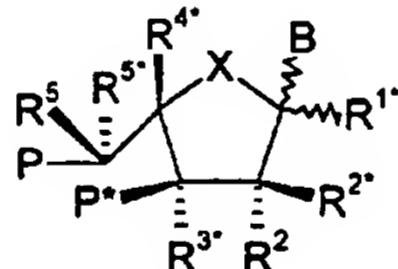
As mentioned above, the present invention *i.a.* relates to novel oligomers (oligonucleotides) comprising one or more L-ribo-configurated bicyclic nucleoside analogues (hereinafter termed "L-ribo-LNA").

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Each of the possible L-ribo-LNAs incorporated in an oligomer (oligonucleotide) has the general formula I

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wherein X is selected from -O- (the L-ribofuranose motif), -S-, -N(R^{N'})-, -C(R⁶R^{6'})-, where R⁶, R^{6'}, and R^{N'} are as defined further below. Thus, the L-ribo-LNAs incorporated in the oligomer comprises a 5-membered ring as an essential part of the bicyclic structure.

50

Among the possible 5-membered rings, the situations where X designates -O-, -S-, and -N(R^{N'})- seem especially interesting, and the situation where X is -O- appears to be particularly interesting.

55

5 The substituent B may designate a group which, when the oligomer is complexing with DNA or RNA, is able to interact (e.g. by hydrogen bonding or covalent bonding or electronic interaction) with DNA or RNA, especially nucleobases of DNA or RNA.

10 Alternatively, the substituent B may designate a group which acts as a label or a reporter,

15 5 or the substituent B may designate a group (e.g. hydrogen) which is expected to have little or no interactions with DNA or RNA. Thus, the substituent B is preferably selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-acyloxy, nucleobases, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and

10 ligands.

20 In the present context, the terms "nucleobase" covers naturally occurring nucleobases as well as non-naturally occurring nucleobases. It should be clear to the person skilled in the art that various nucleobases which previously have been considered "non-naturally

25 15 occurring" have subsequently been found in nature. Thus, "nucleobase" includes not only the known purine and pyrimidine heterocycles, but also heterocyclic analogues and tautomers thereof. Illustrative examples of nucleobases are adenine, guanine, thymine, cytosine, uracil, purine, xanthine, diaminopurine, 8-oxo-*N*⁶-methyladenine, 7-deazaxanthine, 7-deazaguanine, *N*⁴,*N*⁴-ethanocytosine, *N*⁶,*N*⁶-ethano-2,6-diaminopurine,

30 20 5-methylcytosine, 5-(C³-C⁶)-alkynylcytosine, 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, pseudoiso-cytosine, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-triazolopyridin, isocytosine, isoguanin, inosine and the "non-naturally occurring" nucleobases described in Benner et al., U.S. Pat No. 5,432,272.

35 The term "nucleobase" is intended to cover all of these examples as well as analogues and tautomers thereof. Especially interesting nucleobases are adenine, guanine, thymine,

40 25 cytosine, and uracil, which are considered as the naturally occurring nucleobases in relation to therapeutic and diagnostic application in humans.

45 When used herein, the term "DNA intercalator" means a group which can intercalate into a DNA or RNA helix, duplex or triplex. Examples of functional parts of DNA intercalators 30 are acridines, anthracene, quinones such as anthraquinone, indole, quinoline, isoquinoline, dihydroquinones, anthracyclines, tetracyclines, methylene blue, anthracyclinone, psoralens, coumarins, ethidium-halides, dynemicin, metal complexes 45 such as 1,10-phenanthroline-copper, tris(4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline)ruthenium-cobalt-enediynes such as calicheamicin, porphyrins, distamycin, netropsin, viologen,

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daunomycin. Especially interesting examples are acridines, quinones such as anthraquinone, methylene blue, psoralens, coumarins, and ethidium-halides.

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In the present context, the term "photochemically active groups" covers compounds which 5 are able to undergo chemical reactions upon irradiation with light. Illustrative examples of functional groups hereof are quinones, especially 6-methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone, anthraquinone, naphthoquinone, and 1,4-dimethyl-anthraquinone, diazirines, aromatic 15 azides, benzophenones, psoralens, diazo compounds, and diazirino compounds.

20

10 In the present context "thermochemically reactive group" is defined as a functional group which is able to undergo thermochemically-induced covalent bond formation with other 20 groups. Illustrative examples of functional parts thermochemically reactive groups are carboxylic acids, carboxylic acid esters such as activated esters, carboxylic acid halides such as acid fluorides, acid chlorides, acid bromide, and acid iodides, carboxylic acid 25 azides, carboxylic acid hydrazides, sulfonic acids, sulfonic acid esters, sulfonic acid halides, semicarbazides, thiosemicarbazides, aldehydes, ketones, primary alcohols, secondary alcohols, tertiary alcohols, phenols, alkyl halides, thiols, disulphides, primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, hydrazines, epoxides, maleimides, and 30 boronic acid derivatives.

30

20 In the present context, the term "chelating group" means a molecule that comprises more than one binding site and frequently binds to another molecule, atom or ion through more 35 than one binding site at the same time. Examples of functional parts of chelating groups are iminodiacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), 25 aminophosphonic acid, etc.

40

In the present context, the term "reporter group" means a group which is detectable either 40 by itself or as a part of an detection series. Examples of functional parts of reporter groups are biotin, digoxigenin, fluorescent groups (groups which are able to absorb 45 electromagnetic radiation, e.g. light or X-rays, of a certain wavelength, and which subsequently reemits the energy absorbed as radiation of longer wavelength; illustrative examples are dansyl (5-dimethylamino)-1-naphthalenesulfonyl), DOXYL (N-oxyl-4,4-dimethyloxazolidine), PROXYL (N-oxyl-2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine), TEMPO (N-oxyl-50 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine), dinitrophenyl, acridines, coumarins, Cy3 and Cy5 35 (trademarks for Biological Detection Systems, Inc.), erytosine, coumaric acid,

5 umbelliferone, Texas R d, rhodamine, tetramethyl rhodamine, Rox, 7-nitrobenzo-2-oxa-1-diazole (NBD), pyrene, fluorescein, europium, ruthenium, samarium, and other rare earth metals), radioisotopic labels, chemiluminescence labels (labels that are detectable via the emission of light during a chemical reaction), spin labels (a free radical (e.g. substituted

10 5 organic nitroxides) or other paramagnetic probes (e.g. Cu²⁺, Mg²⁺) bound to a biological molecule being detectable by the use of electron spin resonance spectroscopy), enzymes (such as peroxidases, alkaline phosphatases, β-galactosidases, and glucose oxidases),

15 10 antigens, antibodies, haptens (groups which are able to combine with an antibody, but which cannot initiate an immune response by itself, such as peptides and steroid

20 15 hormones), carrier systems for cell membrane penetration such as: fatty acid residues, steroid moieties (cholesterol), vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E, folic acid peptides for specific receptors, groups for mediating endocytose, epidermal growth factor (EGF), bradykinin, and platelet derived growth factor (PDGF). Especially interesting examples are biotin, fluorescein, Texas Red, rhodamine, dinitrophenyl, digoxigenin, ruthenium,

25 20 europium, Cy5 and Cy3.

In the present context "ligand" means something which binds. Ligands can comprise functional groups such as: aromatic groups (such as benzene, pyridine, napthalene, anthracene, and phenanthrene), heteroaromatic groups (such as thiophene, furan, 30 20 tetrahydrofuran, pyridine, dioxane, and pyrimidine), carboxylic acids, carboxylic acid esters, carboxylic acid halides, carboxylic acid azides, carboxylic acid hydrazides, sulfonic acids, sulfonic acid esters, sulfonic acid halides, semicarbazides, thiosemicarbazides, 35 25 aldehydes, ketones, primary alcohols, secondary alcohols, tertiary alcohols, phenols, alkyl halides, thiols, disulphides, primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines.

40 30 hydrazines, epoxides, maleimides, C₁-C₂₀ alkyl groups optionally interrupted or terminated with one or more heteroatoms such as oxygen atoms, nitrogen atoms, and/or sulphur atoms, optionally comprising aromatic or mono/polyunsaturated hydrocarbons, polyoxyethylene such as polyethylene glycol, oligo/polyamides such as poly-β-alanine, polyglycine, polylysine, peptides, oligo/polysaccharides, oligo/polyphosphates, toxins,

45 35 antibiotics, cell poisons, and steroids, and also "affinity ligands", *i.e.* functional groups or biomolecules that have a specific affinity for sites on particular proteins, antibodies, poly- and oligosaccharides, and other biomolecules.

50 55 It will be clear for the person skilled in the art that the above-mentioned specific examples 35 under DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups,

5 chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands correspond to the "active/functional" part of the groups in question. For the person skilled in the art, it is furthermore clear that DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands are typically represented in the form M-K- where M is

10 5 the "active/functional" part of the group in question and where K is a spacer through which the "active/functional" part is attached to the 5-membered ring. Thus, it should be understood that the group B, in the case where B is selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, has the form M-K-, where M is the "active/functional" part of

15 10 the DNA intercalator, photochemically active group, thermochemically active group, chelating group, reporter group, and ligand, respectively, and where K is an optional spacer comprising 1-50 atoms, preferably 1-30 atoms, in particular 1-15 atoms, between the 5-membered ring and the "active/functional" part.

20 25 In the present context, the term "spacer" means a thermochemically and photochemically non-active distance-making group and is used to join two or more different moieties of the types defined above. Spacers are selected on the basis of a variety of characteristics including their hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, molecular flexibility and length (e.g. see Hermanson et. al., "Immobilized Affinity Ligand Techniques", Academic Press, San Diego,

30 30 California (1992), p. 137-ff). Generally, the length of the spacers are less than or about 400 Å, in some applications preferably less than 100 Å. The spacer, thus, comprises a chain of carbon atoms optionally interrupted or terminated with one or more heteroatoms, such as oxygen atoms, nitrogen atoms, and/or sulphur atoms. Thus, the spacer K may comprise one or more amide, ester, amino, ether, and/or thioether functionalities, and

35 35 25 optionally aromatic or mono/polyunsaturated hydrocarbons, polyoxyethylene such as polyethylene glycol, oligo/polyamides such as poly-β-alanine, polyglycine, polylysine, and peptides in general, oligosaccharides, oligo/polyphosphates. Moreover the spacer may consist of combined units thereof. The length of the spacer may vary, taking into consideration the desired or necessary positioning and spatial orientation of the

40 40 30 "active/functional" part of the group in question in relation to the 5-membered ring. In particularly interesting embodiments, the spacer includes a chemically cleavable group. Examples of such chemically cleavable groups include disulphide groups cleavable under reductive conditions, peptide fragments cleavable by peptidases and so forth.

5

In one embodiment of the present invention, K designates a single bond so that the "active/functional" part of the group in question is attached directly to the 5-membered ring.

10

5 In a preferred embodiment, the substituent B in the general formulae I and II is preferably selected from nucleobases, in particular from adenine, guanine, thymine, cytosine and uracil.

15

In the oligomers of the present invention (formula I), P designates the radical position for
10 an internucleoside linkage to a succeeding monomer, or a 5'-terminal group. The first possibility applies when the L-ribo-LNA in question is not the 5'-terminal "monomer", whereas the latter possibility applies when the L-ribo-LNA in question is the 5'-terminal "monomer". It should be understood (which also will be clear from the definition of
20 internucleoside linkage and 5'-terminal group further below) that such an internucleoside linkage or 5'-terminal group may include the substituent R⁵ (or equally applicable: the substituent R⁵) thereby forming a double bond to the group P. (5'-Terminal refers to the
25 position corresponding to the 5'-carbon atom of a ribose moiety in a nucleoside)

30

On the other hand, P' designates the radical position for an internucleoside linkage to a
20 preceding monomer or a 3'-terminal group. Analogously, the first possibility applies where the L-ribo-LNA in question is not the 3'-terminal "monomer", whereas the latter possibility applies when the L-ribo-LNA in question is the 3'-terminal "monomer" (3'-Terminal refers to the position corresponding to the 3'-carbon atom of a ribose moiety in a nucleoside).

35

25 In the present context, the term "monomer" relates to naturally occurring nucleosides, non-naturally occurring nucleosides, PNAs, LNAs and so forth as well as L-ribo-LNAs.
40 Thus, the term "succeeding monomer" relates to the neighbouring monomer in the 5'-terminal direction and the "preceding monomer" relates to the neighbouring monomer in the 3'-terminal direction. Such succeeding and preceding monomers, seen from the
30 position of an L-ribo-LNA monomer, may be naturally occurring nucleosides or non-naturally occurring nucleosides, or even further L-ribo-LNA monomers.

45

Consequently, in the present context (as can be derived from the definitions above), the term "oligomer" means an oligonucleotide modified by the incorporation of one or more L-
50 35 ribo-LNA(s).

5

10 The crucial part of the present invention is the L-ribo-configuration of the 5-membered ring combined with the provision that R² and R⁴ together designate a biradical forming a fused ring onto the 5-membered ring.

15 5

In the groups constituting the biradical(s), Z is selected from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^a)-, and R^a and R^b each is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, 10 aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, 20 C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro, azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators, 25 photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands (where the latter groups may include a spacer as defined for the substituent B), where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted. Moreover, two geminal substituents R^a and R^b together may designate optionally substituted methylene 30 olefin (=CH₂ optionally substituted one or two times with substituents as defined as 35 optional substituents for aryl).

In the present context, *i.e.* in the present description and claims, the orientation of the 35 biradicals are so that the left-hand side represents the substituent with the lowest number and the right-hand side represents the substituent with the highest number, thus, when 40 25 R² and R⁴ together designate a biradical "-O-CH₂-", it is understood that the oxygen atom represents R², thus the oxygen atom is *e.g.* attached to the position of R², and the methylene group represents R⁴.

Considering the interesting possibilities for the structure of the biradical(s) in L-ribo-LNA(s) 45 30 incorporated in oligomers according to the invention, it is believed that the biradical(s) constituted by pair(s) of non-geminal substituents preferably is/are selected from - (CR¹R²),-Y-(CR¹R²),_s-, -(CR¹R²),-Y-(CR¹R²),_s-Y-, -Y-(CR¹R²),_s-Y-(CR¹R²),_s-, - 40 (CR¹R²),_s-, -Y-, -Y-Y-, wherein each Y is independently selected from -O-, -S-, -Si(R³)₂-, - 50 N(R³)-, >C=O, -C(=O)-N(R³)-, and -N(R³)-C(=O)-, each R¹ is independently selected from 55 35 hydrogen, halogen, azido, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-

5 alkyl)amino, particularly substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, DNA
intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating
groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and/or two adjacent (non-geminal) R[•] may together
10 designate a double bond; and each of r and s is 0-4 with the proviso that the sum r+s is

5 1-4. Particularly interesting situations are those wherein each biradical is independently
selected from -Y-, -(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-, -(CR[•]R[•])_r-Y-(CR[•]R[•])_s-, and -Y-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-Y-, wherein and
each of r and s is 0-3 with the proviso that the sum r+s is 1-4.

15 Particularly interesting oligomers are those wherein the following criteria applies for the L-
10 ribo-LNA(s) in the oligomers: R²[•] and R⁴[•] together designate a biradical selected from -O-,
-S-, -N(R[•])-, -(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s+1}-, -(CR[•]R[•])_r-O-(CR[•]R[•])_s-, -(CR[•]R[•])-S-(CR[•]R[•])_s-, -(CR[•]R[•])-N(R[•])-
20 (CR[•]R[•])_s-, -O-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-O-, -S-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-O-, -O-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-S-, -N(R[•])-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-O-, -O-
-O-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-N(R[•])-, -S-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-S-, -N(R[•])-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-N(R[•])-, -N(R[•])-(CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-S-, and -S-
25 (CR[•]R[•])_{r+s}-N(R[•])-; wherein each of r and s is 0-3 with the proviso that the sum r+s is 1-4,
and where R[•] is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy,
optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups,
thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and any
remaining substituents R[•] are hydrogen.

30 20 In one preferred embodiment, one group R[•] in the biradical of at least one LNA is selected
from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups,
chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands (where the latter groups may include a
35 spacer as defined for the substituent B).

40 25 In another preferred embodiment, one group R[•] in the biradical of at least one LNA is
selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted
C₁₋₆-alkyl, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active
groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and any remaining substituents R[•]
45 are hydrogen.

50 30 With respect to the substituents R¹[•], R²[•], R³[•], R⁵[•], R⁵[•], R⁶, and R⁶[•] present, these are
55 independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally
substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₂₋₁₂-
alkenyoxy, carboxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-
carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy,

5 heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro, azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators,

10 5 photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands (where the latter groups may include a spacer as defined for the substituent B), where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted, and where two 15 geminal substituents together may designate oxo, thioxo, imino, or optionally substituted methylene, or together may form a spiro biradical consisting of a 1-5 carbon atom(s)

10 20 alkylene chain which is optionally interrupted and/or terminated by one or more heteroatoms/groups selected from -O-, -S-, and -(NR^N)- where R^N is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl, and where two adjacent (non-geminal) substituents may 25 designate an additional bond resulting in a double bond; and R^N, when present, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl.

25 30 Preferably, each of the substituents R^{1'}, R², R^{3'}, R⁵, R^{5'}, R⁶, and R^{6'} of the L-ribo-LNA(s), which are present, is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, azido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and halogen, where two geminal substituents together may 35 designate oxo, and where R^N, when present, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl.

20 40 45 50 55 25 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, X is selected from -O-, -S-, and -NR^N-, in particular -O-, and each of the substituents R^{1'}, R², R^{3'}, R⁵, R^{5'}, R⁶, and R^{6'} of the L-ribo-LNA(s), which are present, designate hydrogen.

30 In an even more preferred embodiment of the present invention, X is O, the substituents R^{1'}, R², R³, R⁵, and R^{5'} designate hydrogen, and R^{2'} and R^{4'} of an L-ribo-LNA incorporated into an oligomer together designate a biradical, selected from -O-, -(CH₂)₀₋₁-O-(CH₂)₁₋₃-, -(CH₂)₀₋₁-S-(CH₂)₁₋₃-, -(CH₂)₀₋₁-N(R^N)-(CH₂)₁₋₃-, and -(CH₂)₂₋₄-, in particular from -O-CH₂-, -S-CH₂-, and -NR^H-CH₂-.

Generally, with due regard to the results obtained

5

so far, it is preferred that the biradical constituting $R^{2\cdot}$ and $R^{4\cdot}$ forms a two atom bridge, i.e. the biradical forms a five membered ring with the furanose ring ($X=O$).

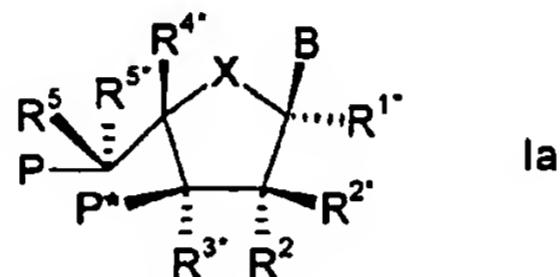
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In one embodiment of the present invention the biradical is $-(CH_2)_{2-4\cdot}$.

5

For these interesting embodiments, it is preferred that the L-ribo-LNA(s) has/have the following general formula Ia.

15



20

Also interesting as a separate aspect of the present invention is the variant of formula Ia where B is in the "β-configuration".

25

The oligomers according to the invention typically comprise 1-10000 L-ribo-LNA(s) of the general formula I (or of the more detailed general formula Ia) and 0-10000 nucleosides selected from naturally occurring nucleosides and nucleoside analogues. The sum of the 30 number of nucleosides and the number of L-ribo-LNA(s) (n) is at least 2, preferably at 15 least 3, in particular at least 5, especially at least 7, such as in the range of 2-15000, preferably in the range of 2-100, such as 3-100, in particular in the range of 2-50, such as 35 3-50 or 5-50 or 7-50.

35

20 It has been found that partly L-ribo-LNA modified oligomers hybridise strongly (with increasing affinity) to DNA and RNA. It is presently believed that fully L-ribo-LNA modified oligomers and oligomers consisting of L-ribo-LNA monomers together with other L-ribo-40 configured nucleotide analogues, will give rise to comparable hybridisation properties.

40

25 In the present context, the term "nucleoside" means a glycoside of a heterocyclic base. The term "nucleoside" is used broadly as to include non-naturally occurring nucleosides, naturally occurring nucleosides as well as other nucleoside analogues.

45

50 Illustrative examples of nucleosides are ribonucleosides comprising a ribose moiety as 30 well as deoxyribonucleosides comprising a deoxyribose moiety. With respect to the bases of such nucleosides, it should be understood that this may be any of the naturally

55

5

occurring bases, e.g. adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, and uracil, as well as any modified variants thereof or any possible unnatural bases.

10

When considering the definitions and the known nucleosides (naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring) and nucleoside analogues (including known bi- and tricyclic analogues), it is clear that an oligomer may comprise one or more L-ribo-LNA(s) (which may be identical or different both with respect to the selection of substituent and with respect to selection of biradical) and one or more nucleosides and/or nucleoside analogues. In the present context "oligonucleotide" means a successive chain of nucleosides connected via internucleoside linkages, however, it should be understood that a nucleobase in one or more nucleotide units (monomers) in an oligomer (oligonucleotide) may have been modified with a substituent B as defined above.

20

The oligomers may be linear, branched or cyclic. In the case of a branched oligomer, the branching points may be located in a nucleoside, in an internucleoside linkage or, in an intriguing embodiment, in an L-ribo-LNA. It is believed that in the latter case, the substituents R², and R³ may designate a group P* designating an internucleoside linkage to a preceding monomer, in particular, R² designate a further P*.

30

20 As mentioned above, the L-ribo-LNA(s) of an oligomer are connected with other monomers via an internucleoside linkage. In the present context, the term "internucleoside linkage" means a linkage consisting of 2 to 4, preferably 3, groups/atoms selected from -CH₂-, -O-, -S-, -NR^H-, >C=O, >C=NR^H, >C=S, -Si(R")₂-, -SO-, -S(O)₂-, -P(O)₂-, -PO(BH₃)-, -P(O,S)-, -P(S)₂-, -PO(R")-, -PO(OCH₃)-, and -PO(NHR^H)-, where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl, and R" is selected from C₁₋₆-alkyl and phenyl. Illustrative examples of such internucleoside linkages are -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -CH₂-CO-CH₂-, -CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-O-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-CH= (including R⁵ when used as a linkage to a succeeding monomer), -CH₂-CH₂-O-, -NR^H-CH₂-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-NR^H-, -CH₂-NR^H-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-NR^H-, -NR^H-CO-O-, -NR^H-CO-NR^H-, -NR^H-CS-NR^H-, -NR^H-C(=NR^H)-NR^H-, -NR^H-CO-CH₂-NR^H-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-CH₂-O-, -O-CH₂-CO-O-, -CH₂-CO-NR^H-, -O-CO-NR^H-, -NR^H-CO-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-CO-NR^H-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-NR^H-, -CH=N-O-, -CH₂-NR^H-O-, -CH₂-O-N= (including R⁵ when used as a linkage to a succeeding monomer), -CH₂-O-NR^H-, -CO-NR^H-CH₂-, -CH₂-NR^H-O-, -CH₂-NR^H-CO-, -O-NR^H-CH₂-, -O-NR^H-, -O-CH₂-S-, -S-CH₂-O-, -CH₂-CH₂-S-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -S-CH₂-CH= (including R⁵ when used as a linkage to a succeeding monomer), -S-CH₂-CH₂-, -S-CH₂-

50

55

5 $\text{CH}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{S-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-S-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-S-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-SO-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-SO}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{O-SO-O-}$, $-\text{O-S(O)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-S(O)}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{O-S(O)}_2\text{-NR}^H\text{-}$, $-\text{NR}^H\text{-S(O)}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{O-S(O)}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-O-}$,
10 $-\text{O-P(O,S)-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(S)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{S-P(O)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{S-P(O,S)-O-}$, $-\text{S-P(S)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-S-}$,
15 $-\text{O-P(O,S)-S-}$, $-\text{O-P(S)}_2\text{-S-}$, $-\text{S-P(O)}_2\text{-S-}$, $-\text{S-P(O,S)-S-}$, $-\text{S-P(S)}_2\text{-S-}$, $-\text{O-PO(R")-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(OCH}_3\text{)-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(OCH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{)-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S-R)-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(BH}_3\text{)-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(NHR}^H\text{)-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-NR}^H\text{-}$, $-\text{NR}^H\text{-P(O)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O, NR}^H\text{)-O-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-P(O)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, and $-\text{O-Si(R")}_2\text{-O-}$; among which $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CO-NR}^H\text{-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-NR}^H\text{-O-}$, $-\text{S-CH}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O,S)-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(S)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{NR}^H\text{-P(O)}_2\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-P(O, NR}^H\text{)-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(R")-O-}$, $-\text{O-PO(CH}_3\text{)-O-}$, and $-\text{O-PO(NHR}^H\text{)-O-}$, where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4} -alkyl,
20 and R'' is selected from C_{1-6} -alkyl and phenyl, are especially preferred. Further illustrative examples are given in Mesmaeker et. al., Current Opinion in Structural Biology 1995, 5, 343-355. The left-hand side of the internucleoside linkage is bound to the 5-membered ring as substituent P' , whereas the right-hand side is bound to the 5'-position of a preceding monomer.

25 It is also clear from the above that the group P may also designate a 5'-terminal group in the case where the L-ribo-LNA in question is the 5'-terminal monomer. Examples of such 5'-terminal groups are hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted 30 aryloxy, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, and $-W\text{-A}'$, wherein W is selected from $-\text{O-}$, $-\text{S-}$, and $-\text{N(R}^H\text{)}$ - where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6} -alkyl, and where A' is selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands (where the latter groups may include a spacer as defined for the substituent B).

35 25 In the present description and claims, the terms "monophosphate", "diphosphate", and "triphosphate" mean groups of the formula: $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-O}'$, $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-O-P(O)}_2\text{-O}'$, and $-\text{O-P(O)}_2\text{-O-P(O)}_2\text{-O-P(O)}_2\text{-O}'$, respectively.

40 30 In a particularly interesting embodiment, the group P designates a 5'-terminal groups selected from monophosphate, diphosphate and triphosphate. Especially the triphosphate variant of formula II is interesting as a substrate, such as for enzymes especially for those active on nucleic acids.

45

5 Analogously, the group P^* may designate a 3'-terminal group in the case where the L-
10 ribo-LNA in question is the 3'-terminal monomer. Examples of such 3'-terminal groups are
hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -
15 alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, and -W-A', wherein W is selected from -
5 -O-, -S-, and -N(R^H)- where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6} -alkyl, and where A' is
selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active
groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands (where the latter groups may
include a spacer as defined for the substituent B).

10 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the oligomer has the following formula
III:



wherein

25 q is 1-50;
each of $n(0)$, ..., $n(q)$ is independently 0-10000;
each of $m(1)$, ..., $m(q)$ is independently 1-10000;
with the proviso that the sum of $n(0)$, ..., $n(q)$ and $m(1)$, ..., $m(q)$ is 2-15000;
30 G designates a 5'-terminal group;
20 each Nu independently designates a nucleoside selected from naturally occurring
nucleosides and nucleoside analogues;
each L-ribo-LNA independently designates a nucleoside analogue;
35 each L independently designates an internucleoside linkage between two groups selected
from Nu and L-ribo-LNA, or L together with G^* designates a 3'-terminal group; and
25 each (L-ribo-LNA)-L independently designates a nucleoside analogue of the general
formula I as defined above, or preferably of the general formula Ia as defined above.

40 Within this embodiment, as well as generally, the present invention provides the intriguing
possibility of including L-ribo-LNAs with different nucleobases, in particular both
45 nucleobases selected from thymine, cytosine and uracil and nucleobases selected from
adenine and guanine. The oligomer may comprise, in one embodiment, at least one L-
ribo-LNA wherein B (in formula I or Ia) is selected from the group comprising adenine and
guanine and at least one L-ribo-LNA wherein B is selected from the group comprising
50 thymine, cytosine and uracil.

5

Apart from the oligomers defined above, the present invention also provides monomeric L-ribo-LNAs useful, e.g., in the preparation of oligomers, as substrates for, e.g., nucleic acid polymerases, polynucleotide kinases, terminal transferases, and as therapeutical agents, see further below. The monomeric L-ribo-LNAs correspond in the overall structure

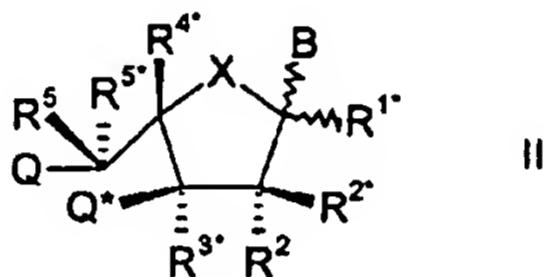
10 5 (especially with respect to the possible biradicals) to the L-ribo-LNAs defined as constituents in oligomers, however with respect to the groups P and P', the monomeric L-ribo-LNAs differ slightly as will be explained below. Furthermore, the monomeric L-ribo-LNAs may comprise functional group protecting groups, especially in the cases where the monomeric L-ribo-LNAs are to be incorporated into oligomers by chemical synthesis.

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20 The invention furthermore relates to monomeric L-ribo-LNA nucleosides (L-ribo-LNAs) of the general formula II:

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30

15 wherein the substituent B is selected from nucleobases, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands; X is selected from -O-, -S-, -N(R^H)-, and -C(R⁶R⁶)-, preferably from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^H)-;

35

20 each of Q and Q' is independently selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Prot-O-, Act-O-, mercapto, Prot-S-, Act-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Prot-N(R^H)-, 40 Act-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyoxy,

25 monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands, 45 carboxy, sulphonato, hydroxymethyl, Prot-O-CH₂-, Act-O-CH₂-, aminomethyl, Prot-N(R^H)-CH₂-, Act-N(R^H)-CH₂-, carboxymethyl, sulphonomethyl, where Prot is a protection group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, Act is an activation group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl;

50

55

5 R^2 and R^4 together or signate a biradical selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-N(R^1)-$, $-(CR^1R^2)-$,
10 $-(CR^1R^2)-O-(CR^1R^2)-$, $-(CR^1R^2)-S-(CR^1R^2)-$, $-(CR^1R^2)-N(R^1)-(CR^1R^2)-$, $-O-(CR^1R^2)-O-$,
15 $-S-(CR^1R^2)-O-$, $-O-(CR^1R^2)-S-$, $-N(R^1)-(CR^1R^2)-O-$, $-O-(CR^1R^2)-N(R^1)-$, $-S-(CR^1R^2)-S-$,
20 $-N(R^1)-(CR^1R^2)-N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)-(CR^1R^2)-S-$, and $-S-(CR^1R^2)-N(R^1)-$; wherein R^1 is as
25 defined above for the oligomers; and each of the substituents R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 ,
which are not involved in Q , or Q' , are as defined above for the oligomers.

15 The monomeric L-ribo-LNAs also comprise basic salts and acid addition salts thereof.

20 10 Furthermore, it should be understood that any chemical group (including any nucleobase),
which is reactive under the conditions prevailing in chemical oligonucleotide synthesis, is
25 optionally functional group protected as known in the art. This means that groups such as
hydroxy, amino, carboxy, sulphono, and mercapto groups, as well as nucleobases, of a
monomeric L-ribo-LNA are optionally functional group protected. Protection (and
30 15 deprotection) is performed by methods known to the person skilled in the art (see, e.g.,
Greene, T. W. and Wuts, P. G. M., "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", 2nd ed.,
35 John Wiley, N.Y. (1991), and M.J. Gait, Oligonucleotide Synthesis, IRL Press, 1984).

40 30 Illustrative examples of hydroxy protection groups are optionally substituted trityl (Tr),
such as 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl (DMT), 4-monomethoxytrityl (MMT), and trityl, optionally
45 35 substituted 9-(9-phenyl)xanthenyl (pixyl), optionally substituted ethoxycarbonyloxy, *p*-
phenylazophenyloxycarbonyloxy, tetrahydropyranyl (thp), 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl
(Fmoc), methoxytetrahydropyranyl (mthp), silyloxy such as trimethylsilyl (TMS),
trisopropylsilyl (TIPS), *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl (TBDMS), triethylsilyl (TES), and phenyl-
50 40 dimethylsilyl, benzyloxycarbonyl or substituted benzyloxycarbonyl ethers such as 2-bromo
benzyloxycarbonyl, *tert*-butylethers, alkyl ethers such as methyl ether, acetals (including
two hydroxy groups), acyloxy such as acetyl or halogen substituted acetyl, e.g.
55 45 chloroacetyl or fluoroacetyl, isobutyryl, pivaloyl, benzoyl and substituted benzoyl,
methoxymethyl (MOM), benzyl ethers or substituted benzyl ethers such as 2,6-
30 50 dichlorobenzyl (2,6-Cl₂BzI). Alternatively, the hydroxy group may be protected by
attachment to a solid support optionally through a linker.

55 50 Illustrative examples of amino protection groups are Fmoc (fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl),
BOC (*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl), trifluoroacetyl, allyloxycarbonyl (alloc, AOC), benzyl-
35 55 oxycarbonyl (Z, Cbz), substituted benzyloxycarbonyls such as 2-chloro benzyloxycarbonyl

5

((2-ClZ), monomethoxytrityl (MMT), dimethoxytrityl (DMT), phthaloyl, and 9-(9-phenyl)xanthenyl (pixyl).

10

Illustrative examples of carboxy protection groups are allyl esters, methyl esters, ethyl esters, 2-cyanoethylesters, trimethylsilylethylesters, benzyl esters (Obzl), 2-adamantyl esters (O-2-Ada), cyclohexyl esters (OcHex), 1,3-oxazolines, oxazoler, 1,3-oxazolidines, amides or hydrazides.

15

Illustrative examples of mercapto protecting groups are trityl (Tr), acetamidomethyl (acm), trimethylacetamidomethyl (Tacm), 2,4,6-trimethoxybenzyl (Tmob), *tert*-butylsulfenyl (StBu), 9-fluorenylmethyl (Fm), 3-nitro-2-pyridinesulfenyl (Npys), and 4-methylbenzyl (Meb).

20

Furthermore, it may be necessary or desirable to protect any nucleobase included in a monomeric L-ribo-LNA, especially when the monomeric L-ribo-LNA is to be incorporated in an oligomer according to the invention. In the present context, the term "protected nucleobases" means that the nucleobase in question is carrying a protection group selected among the groups which are well-known for a man skilled in the art (see e.g.

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Protocols for Oligonucleotides and Analogs, vol 20, (Sudhir Agrawal, ed.), Humana Press,

30 20 1993, Totowa, NJ; S. L. Beaucage and R. P. Iyer, *Tetrahedron*, 1993, **49**, 6123; S. L. Beaucage and R. P. Iyer, *Tetrahedron*, 1992, **48**, 2223; and E. Uhlmann and A. Peyman,

35

Chem. Rev., **90**, 543.). Illustrative examples are benzoyl, isobutyryl, *tert*-butyl, *tert*-butyloxycarbonyl, 4-chloro-benzyloxycarbonyl, 9-fluorenylmethyl, 9-fluorenylmethyloxy-

40

carbonyl, 4-methoxybenzoyl, 4-methoxytriphenylmethyl, optionally substituted triazolo, *p*-toluenesulphonyl, optionally substituted sulphonyl, isopropyl, optionally substituted amidines, optionally substituted trityl, phenoxyacetyl, optionally substituted acyl, pixyl,

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tetrahydropyranyl, optionally substituted silyl ethers, and 4-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl.

Chapter 1 in "Protocols for oligonucleotide conjugates", Methods in Molecular Biology, vol 26, (Sudhir Agrawal, ed.), Humana Press, 1993, Totowa, NJ. and S. L. Beaucage and R.

30 P. Iyer, *Tetrahedron*, 1992, **48**, 2223 disclose further suitable examples.

50

In a preferred embodiment, the group B in a monomeric L-ribo-LNA is preferably selected from nucleobases and protected nucleobases.

55

5 In an embodiment of the monomeric L-ribo-LNAs according to the present invention, one of Q and Q', preferably Q', designates a group selected from Act-O-, Act-S-, Act-N(R^H)-, Act-O-CH₂-, Act-S-CH₂-, Act-N(R^H)-CH₂-, and the other of Q and Q', preferably Q,
10 designates a group selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Prot-
5 O-, mercapto, Prot-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Prot-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino,
optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted
15 C₂₋₆-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl,
optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyoxy, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, DNA
intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating
10 groups, reporter groups, ligands, carboxy, sulphono, hydroxymethyl, Prot-O-CH₂-,
aminomethyl, Prot-N(R^H)-CH₂-, carboxymethyl, sulphonomethyl, and R^H is selected from
20 hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl.

In the case described above, the group Prot designates a protecting group for -OH,
25 -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively. Such protection groups are selected from the same as
defined above for hydroxy protection groups, mercapto protection group, and amino
protection groups, respectively, however taking into consideration the need for a stable
and reversible protection group. However, it is preferred that any protection group for -OH
30 is selected from optionally substituted trityl, such as dimethoxytrityl (DMT),
20 monomethoxytrityl (MMT), and trityl, and 9-(9-phenyl)xanthenyl (pixyl), optionally
substituted, tetrahydropyranyl (thp) (further suitable hydroxy protection groups for
phosphoramidite oligonucleotide synthesis are described in Agrawal, ed. "Protocols for
35 Oligonucleotide Conjugates"; Methods in Molecular Biology, vol. 26, Humana Press,
Totowa, NJ (1994) and Protocols for Oligonucleotides and Analogs, vol 20, (Sudhir
25 Agrawal, ed.), Humana Press, 1993, Totowa, NJ), or protected as acetal; that any
protection group for -SH is selected from trityl, such as dimethoxytrityl (DMT),
40 monomethoxytrityl (MMT), and trityl, and 9-(9-phenyl)xanthenyl (pixyl), optionally
substituted, tetrahydropyranyl (thp) (further suitable mercapto protection groups for
phosphoramidite oligonucleotide synthesis are also described in Agrawal (see above);
30 and that any protecting group for -NH(R^H) is selected from trityl, such as dimethoxytrityl
45 (DMT), monomethoxytrityl (MMT), and trityl, and 9-(9-phenyl)xanthenyl (pixyl), optionally
substituted, tetrahydropyranyl (thp) (further suitable amino protection groups for
phosphoramidite oligonucleotide synthesis are also described by Agrawal (see above)).

5 In the embodiment above, as well as for any monomeric L-ribo-LNAs defined herein, Act designates an activation group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively. Such activation groups are, e.g., selected from optionally substituted O-phosphoramidite, optionally substituted O-phosphotriester, optionally substituted O-phosphodiester, optionally substituted H-phosphonate, and optionally substituted O-phosphonate.

10

15 In the present context, the term "phosphoramidite" means a group of the formula -P(OR^X)-N(R^Y)₂, wherein R^X designates an optionally substituted alkyl group, e.g. methyl, 2-cyanoethyl, or benzyl, and each of R^Y designate optionally substituted alkyl groups, e.g.

20 10 ethyl or isopropyl, or the group -N(R^Y)₂ forms a morpholino group (-N(CH₂CH₂)₂O). R^X preferably designates 2-cyanoethyl and the two R^Y are preferably identical and designate isopropyl. Thus, an especially relevant phosphoramidite is *N,N*-diisopropyl-O-(2-cyanoethyl)phosphoramidite.

25 15 It should be understood that the protecting groups used herein for a single monomeric L-ribo-LNA or several monomeric L-ribo-LNAs may be selected so that when this/these L-ribo-LNA(s) are incorporated in an oligomer according to the invention, it will be possible to perform either a simultaneous deprotection or a sequential deprotection of the functional groups. The latter situation opens for the possibility of regioselectively

30 20 introducing one or several "active/functional" groups such as DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, where such groups may be attached via a spacer as described above.

35 25 In a preferred embodiment, Q is selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Prot-O-, mercapto, Prot-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Prot-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyoxy, monophosphate, 30 diphosphate, triphosphate, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands, carboxy, sulphono, hydroxymethyl, Prot-O-CH₂-, aminomethyl, Prot-N(R^H)-CH₂-, carboxymethyl, sulphonomethyl, where Prot is a protection group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl; and Q' is selected from hydrogen, azido, 45 halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Act-O-, mercapto, Act-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Act-N(R^H)-, 50 35

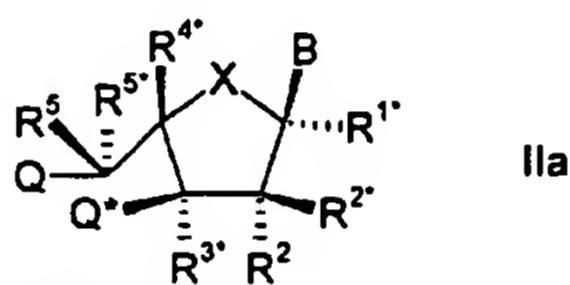
5 mono- or di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkynyoxy, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups,

10 5 reporter groups, ligands, carboxy, sulphono, where Act is an activation group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6} -alkyl.

15 The monomeric L-ribo-LNAs of the general formula II may, as the L-ribo-LNAs incorporated into oligomers, represent various stereoisomers. Thus, the stereochemical

10 variants described above for the L-ribo-LNAs incorporated into oligomers are believed to be equally applicable in the case of monomeric L-ribo-LNAs (however, it should be noted that P should then be replaced with Q).

20 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the monomeric LNA has the general
25 formula IIa



30 wherein the substituents are defined as above.

35 Furthermore, with respect to the definitions of substituents, biradicals, R^{\cdot} , etc. the same
20 preferred embodiments as defined above for the oligomer according to the invention also apply in the case of monomeric L-ribo-LNAs.

40 In a particularly interesting embodiment of the monomeric L-ribo-LNAs of the present invention, B designates a nucleobase, preferably a nucleobase selected from thymine,
25 cytosine, uracil, adenine and guanine (in particular adenine and guanine), X is -O-, R^2 and R^4' together designate a biradical selected from $-(CH_2)_{0-1}-O-(CH_2)_{1-3}-$, $-(CH_2)_{0-1}-S-(CH_2)_{1-3}-$, and $-(CH_2)_{0-1}-N(R^N)-(CH_2)_{1-3}-$, in particular -O-CH₂-, -S-CH₂- and -R^N-CH₂-,
45 where R^N is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4} -alkyl, Q designates Prot-O-, Q* designates
Act-OH, and R^{1'}, R², R^{3'}, R⁵, and R^{5'} each designate hydrogen. In this embodiment, R^N
50 30 may also be selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups and ligands.

5

In a further particularly interesting embodiment of the monomeric L-ribo-LNAs of the present invention, B designates a nucleobase, preferably a nucleobase selected from thymine, cytosine, uracil, adenine and guanine (in particular adenine and guanine), X is

10 5 $-O-$, R^2 and R^4 together designate a biradical selected from $-(CH_2)_{0-1}O-(CH_2)_{1-3}-$, $-(CH_2)_{0-1}S-(CH_2)_{1-3}-$, and $-(CH_2)_{0-1}N(R^N)-(CH_2)_{1-3}-$, in particular $-O-CH_2-$, $-S-CH_2-$ and $-R^N-CH_2-$, where R^N is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4} -alkyl, Q is selected from hydroxy, mercapto, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkynyloxy,

15 10 monophosphate, diphosphate, and triphosphate, Q is selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkynyl, and optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkynyloxy, R^3 is selected from hydrogen,

20 15 optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkenyl, and optionally substituted C_{2-6} -alkynyl, and R^1 , R^2 , R^5 , and R^5 each designate hydrogen. Also here, R^N may also be selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups and ligands.

25 30 20 One aspect of the invention is to provide various derivatives of L-ribo-LNAs for solid-phase and/or solution phase incorporation into an oligomer. As an illustrative example, monomers suitable for incorporation of ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(cytosin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-

35 25 hydroxymethyl-3-(uracil-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(guanin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, and ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(adenin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane using the phosphoramidite approach, the phosphotriester approach, and the *H*-phosphonate approach, respectively, are ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-(2-Cyanoethoxy(diisopropyl-amino)phosphinoxy)-1-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-7-O-(2-chlorophenylphosphate), and

40 30 ($1R,3R,4S,7R$)-7-hydroxy-1-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-7-O-(*H*-phosphonate) and the 3-(cytosin-1-yl), 3-(uracil-1-yl),

45 35 3-(adenin-1-yl) and 3-(guanin-1-yl) analogues thereof, respectively. Furthermore, the

5 analogues where the methyleneoxy biradical of the monomers is substituted with a methylenethio, a methyleneamino, or a 1,2-ethylene biradical are also expected to constitute particularly interesting variants within the present invention. The methylenethio and methyleneamino analogues are believed to equally applicable as the methyleneoxy

10 5 analogue and therefore the specific reagents corresponding to those mentioned for incorporation of (1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxa-

15 bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, (1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(cytosin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, (1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(uracil-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, (1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(guanin-1-yl)-

20 10 2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, and (1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(adenin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane should also be considered as particularly interesting reactive monomers within the present invention. For the methyleneamine analogue, it should be noted that the secondary amine may carry a substituent selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl such as methyl and benzyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl such as trifluoroacetyl, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl and optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl.

25

Also interesting as a separate aspect of the present invention is the variant of formula II or IIIa where B is in the 'β-configuration'.

30 20

Preparation of monomers

35 In a preferred embodiment, α-L-ribo-LNA containing a 2'-O,4'-C-methylene bridge was synthesised by the following procedure: Benzoylation of 4-C-hydroxymethyl-α-D-

40 25 xylofuranose 1 (T.F. Tam and B. Fraser-Ried, *Can. J. Chem.*, 1979, **57**, 2818) afforded the di-O-benzoyl derivative 2 which was subsequently converted into the 1,2-di-O-acetylated furanose 3 by acetolysis using 80% acetic acid followed by acetylation. Employing a modified Vorbrüggen methodology (H. Vorbrüggen, K. Krolkiewicz and B. Bennua, *Chem. Ber.*, 1981, **114**, 1234; H. Vorbrüggen and G. Höfle, *Chem. Ber.*, 1981, **114**, 1256), the thymine β-configured nucleoside 4 was stereoselectively obtained by *in situ* silylation of thymine and trimethylsilyl triflate mediated coupling. Treatment of compound 4 with sodium methoxide resulted in deacylation to give nucleoside triol 5. 4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl protection followed by tosylation afforded the 5'-O-4,4'-dimethoxytrityl protected nucleoside derivative 7. Base-induced ring closure afforded the bicyclic

45 50 35 nucleoside derivative 8. Debenzylation yielded the bicyclic nucleoside analogue 9 which

5

was transformed into the phosphoramidite derivative 10 for oligonucleotide synthesis. The coupling method used in the example is only one of several possible methods as will be apparent for a person skilled in the art.

10

5 As an alternative route the synthetic sequence shown in Figure 3 (Examples 12-14) can be used. Thus, nucleoside 5 was trimesylated to give nucleoside 11 which could be cyclized using NaOH/EtOH/H₂O. Under the experimental conditions used, concomitant conversion of the remaining mesyloxy group to an hydroxyl group was observed yielding nucleoside 12. Standard DMT-protection as outlined in example 14 is expected to yield 10 nucleoside 8, a convenient intermediate towards synthesis of the α -L-ribo-LNA nucleoside phosphoramidite derivative 10 (Figure 2).

20

The described example is meant to be illustrative for the procedures and examples of this invention. The structures of the synthesised compounds were verified using 1D NMR.

25

15 The methods depicted in Schemes 1, 2 and 3 can likewise be used to synthesize α -L-ribo-LNA nucleoside derivatives of other pyrimidine bases than thymine, e.g. uracil, cytosine, 5-substituted uracil, 5-substituted cytosine as well as otherwise substituted pyrimidines. Alternatively, the uracil derivatives can be converted to the corresponding 20 cytosine derivatives, and the thymine derivatives to the corresponding 5-methylcytosine derivatives, using well known methods (Koshkin, A. A., Singh, S. K., Nielsen, P., Rajwanshi, V. K., Kumar, R., Meldgaard, M., Olsen, C. E., Wengel, J. *Tetrahedron* 1998, 54, 3607; Obika, S., Nanbu, D., Hari, Y., Andoh, J., Morio, K., Doi, T., Imanishi, T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1998, 39, 5401).

30

25 For synthesis of purine α -L-ribo-LNA nucleoside derivatives a number of suitable synthetic methods can be devised. It should be noted that the term " α -face" when mentioned below refers to the α -face of the natural RNA nucleoside monomers, that the term " β -face" when mentioned below refers to the β -face of the natural RNA nucleoside monomers, and that

40

30 the terms " β -purine nucleoside" or " β -pyrimidine nucleoside" mean that the nucleobases are positioned as in the natural RNA nucleoside monomers. As an example of a possible synthetic route towards the purine α -L-ribo-LNA nucleoside derivatives, cyclization of 45 arabino-configured analogues (2'-OH group positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring) can be utilized. These nucleosides can be prepared from the corresponding arabino- 50 configured parent nucleosides via 5'-oxidation, aldol condensation and reduction.

55

5 Protecting group manipulations and activation of the 5'-OH group (positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring) should then prepare for the desired cyclization as mentioned above.

10 Alternatively, 2'-oxidation of the 2'-OH group of 4'-C-hydroxymethyl derivatives of β -purine ribofuranosyl nucleosides (with the 2'-OH and 3'-OH groups positioned at the α -face of

15 the furanose ring and the 3'-OH positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring (or alternatively at the α -face of the furanose ring) with concomitant inversion at C3') followed by stereoselective reduction (using e.g. NaBH₄) should furnish the desired nucleoside with inverted configuration at the 2'-carbon atom. Protecting group manipulations and

20 activation of the 5'-OH group (positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring) should then

25 prepare for the desired cyclization as mentioned above. Other procedures can be anticipated to be useful for inversion of the configuration at the 2'-carbon atom of 4'-C-hydroxymethyl derivatives of β -purine ribofuranosyl nucleosides (with the 2'-OH and 3'-OH groups positioned at the α -face of the furanose ring and the 3'-OH group positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring, or alternatively at the α -face with concomitant inversion at

30 C3', of the furanose ring), e.g. the Mitsunobu reaction or nucleophilic displacement reactions of 2'-O-activated derivatives (e.g., 2'-O-mesyl, 2'-O-tosyl or 2'-O-trifluoromethanesulfonyl derivatives) with O-nucleophiles like acetate, benzoate, alkoxide or the like. Subsequent deprotection to give a 5'-hydroxy-4'-C-hydroxymethyl derivative, activation to prepare for cyclization (e.g., by mono- or dimesylation, mono- or ditosylation,

35 20 or mono- or ditrifluoromethanesulfonation), cyclization (after deprotection of the 2'-OH group if necessary), and deprotections should furnish the desired purine α -L-ribo nucleosides. It should be noted that the purine bases preferably should be protected in the target monomers and that this can be accomplished during the synthetic route of

40 choice, or as the last step, by trimethylsilylation, protection of the free amino group of the 25 purine bases, and desilylation. The starting 4'-C-hydroxymethyl derivatives of β -purine nucleosides may, in one embodiment, be prepared by coupling of furanose derivative 3 (Figure 1) with properly protected adenine or guanine derivatives following the known Vorbrüggen type coupling methods (see e.g. synthesis of nucleoside 4; Figure 1) (Koshkin, A. A., Singh, S. K., Nielsen, P., Rajwanshi, V. K., Kumar, R., Meldgaard, M.,

45 30 Olsen, C. E., Wengel, J. *Tetrahedron* 1998, 54, 3607).

50 It is anticipated that inversion of the configuration as described above may be performed on natural β -purine ribofuranosyl nucleosides (with the 2'-OH positioned at the α -face of the furanose ring and the 3'-OH group positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring,

5 or alternatively at the α -face of the furanose ring with concomitant inversion at C3') with
the introduction of the additional 4'-C-hydroxymethyl group to follow thereafter using
known procedures, e.g. those described above. One may also expect that either
10 enzymatic or chemical transglycosylation reactions on properly derivatized and protected
15 pyrimidine nucleosides, either arabino-configured β -pyrimidine furanosyl nucleosides,
arabino-configured 4'-C-hydroxymethyl- β -pyrimidine furanosyl nucleosides, or already
cyclized α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine nucleosides are possible synthetic routes towards the
purine α -L-ribo-LNA nucleoside derivatives. Alternatively, 4-C-hydroxymethylation,
inversion of the configuration at the 2-carbon atom, and cyclization, or one of these
10 procedures or two of these procedures (whatever needed depends on the starting
material applied) can be performed starting from a furanose or hexose. Subsequently,
20 before or after cyclization, coupling with different bases (purines or pyrimidines - protected
if needed) would furnish nucleoside derivatives useful for synthesis of α -L-ribo-LNA
pyrimidine and purine nucleosides after the necessary protecting group manipulations
25 and/or OH-group activations. As yet another procedure to synthesize α -L-ribo-LNA
pyrimidine or purine nucleosides, direct building-up of the desired nucleobase, in two or
more chemical steps) from an appropriately derivatized furanosyl derivative, e.g. furanosyl
amine, should be possible.
30

20 In a preferred embodiment, the procedures described in examples 15, 16 and 17 (Figure
35 4) can be used to prepare the purine α -L-LNA monomers, e.g. the adenine or guanine
derivatives. Thus, sugar 3 was coupled with N-6-benzoyladenine to give nucleoside 13
which was selectively deacetylated and subsequently converted into the 2'-O-
trifluoromethanesulfonyl derivative. Concomitant reaction with potassium acetate gave the
40 2'-O-acetyl derivative 14 with inversion at C2'. Complete deacylation followed by
reprotection of the adenine moiety, selective mesylation of the two primary hydroxyl
groups and treatment with sodium hydroxide in water:dioxane afforded the α -L-LNA
adenine nucleoside 15. DMT-protection of nucleoside 15 followed by debenzylation and
45 3'-O-phosphitylation (Koshkin, A. A., Singh, S. K., Nielsen, P., Rajwanshi, V. K., Kumar,
R., Meldgaard, M., Olsen, C. E., Wengel, J. *Tetrahedron* 1998, 54, 3607) is one possible
route to obtain the phosphoramidite derivative 16. Debenzylation of 15 followed by
selective DMT-protection of the primary hydroxyl group and 3'-O-phosphitylation is
50 another route affording phosphoramidite derivative 16.

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All the methods and procedures described above for synthesis of α -L-ribo-LNA purine nucleosides are also applicable as alternative methods for synthesis of the α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine nucleosides.

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- 5 The methods described above for synthesis of α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine and purine nucleosides leads naturally to methods useful for synthesis of 2'-amino and 2'-thio derivatives of α -L-ribo-LNA nucleosides. As one example, cyclization by attack of a 2'-amino or 2'-thio group positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring on a properly activated 5'-OH group should furnish the 2'-amino or 2'-thio α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine or purine nucleosides. Alternatively, cyclization by attack of a 5'-amino or 5'-thio group positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring on a properly activated 2'-OH group positioned at the α -face of the furanose ring should furnish the 2'-amino or 2'-thio α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine or purine nucleosides. As yet another method, cyclization of properly activated, protected and configured derivatives, e.g. 2'-O,5'-O-dimesyl, 2'-O,5'-O-ditosyl, or 2'-O,5'-O-dtrifluoromethanesulfonyl nucleosides, using amino or thio nucleophiles (e.g. benzylamine and potassium thioacetate, respectively) should furnish the 2'-amino and 2'-thio derivatives of α -L-LNA nucleosides. Likewise, an attack by a 5'-OH group positioned at the β -face of the furanose ring on a properly activated 2'-OH group positioned at the α -face of the furanose ring should furnish the parent α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine or purine nucleosides.

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It is expected that the method used for oligomerization of the α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine nucleosides may be used successfully also for the α -L-ribo-LNA purine nucleosides.

Alternatively, any known method for automated or solution-phase synthesis of oligonucleotides and analogues, e.g. the phosphotriester method, the H-phosphonate method or any variant of the phosphoramidite method used for oligomerization of the α -L-ribo-LNA pyrimidine nucleosides, should also be applicable.

Preparation of oligomers

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Linear-, branched- (M. Grøtli and B. S. Sproat, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1995, 495; R. H. E. Hudson and M. J. Damha, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1993, 115, 2119; M. Von Büren, G. V. Petersen, K. Rasmussen, G. Brandenburg, J. Wengel and F. Kirpekar, *Tetrahedron*, 1995, 51, 8491) and circular- (G. Prakash and E. T. Kool, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1992, 114, 3523) oligo- and polynucleotides of the invention may be produced using

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5 the polymerisation techniques of nucleic acid chemistry well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art of organic chemistry. Phosphoramidite chemistry (S. L. Beaucage and R. P. Iyer, *Tetrahedron*, 1993, **49**, 6123; S. L. Beaucage and R. P. Iyer, *Tetrahedron*, 1992, **48**, 2223) was used, but for instance H-phosphonate chemistry, phosphotriester chemistry or

10 5 enzymatic synthesis could also be used. The standard coupling conditions for the phosphoramidite approach was slightly modified using pyridine hydrochloride instead of 1*H*-tetrazole as a highly efficient reagent for activating nucleoside phosphoramidites 15 during oligonucleotide synthesis, and a prolongation of the coupling time to between 10 to 30 min.

10 After synthesis of the desired sequence, deprotection and cleavage from the solid support 20 (cleavage from solid support and removal of protection groups using concentrated ammonia in methanol at room temperature for 12 h) and subsequent reversed phase purification using commercially available disposable cartridges (which includes

25 15 detritylation) yield the final oligomeric product. Alternatively, purification of L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides can be done using disposable reversed phase HPLC and/or precipitation from ethanol or butanol. Capillary gel electrophoresis was used to verify the purity and the 30 composition of the synthesised oligonucleotide analogues however, purity and composition can also be verified using reversed phase HPLC and MALDI-MS.

30 20 Generally, the present invention provides the use of L-ribo-LNAs as defined herein for the preparation of L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides. It should be understood that L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides may comprise normal nucleosides (i.e. naturally occurring nucleosides such as ribonucleosides and/or deoxyribonucleosides), as well as modified 35 25 nucleosides different from those defined with the general formula II.

40 Furthermore, solid support materials having immobilised thereto an optionally nucleobase protected and optionally 5'-OH protected LNA are especially interesting as material for the synthesis of LNA modified oligonucleotides where an LNA monomer is included in at the 45 30 3'-end. In this instance, the solid support material is preferable CPG, e.g. a readily (commercially) available CPG material onto which a 3'-functionalised, optionally nucleobase protected and optionally 5'-OH protected LNA is linked using the conditions stated by the supplier for that particular material. BioGenex Universial CPG Support 50 (BioGenex, U.S.A.) can e.g. be used. The 5'-OH protecting group may, e.g., be a DMT

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group. 3'-functional group should be selected with due regard to the conditions applicable for the CPG material in question.

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Applications

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The present invention discloses the surprising finding that derivatives of L-ribo-LNAs, when incorporated into partly modified oligonucleotides, decrease the affinity of these modified oligonucleotides for both complementary DNA and RNA compared to the unmodified oligonucleotides. However, when incorporated into fully L-ribo-LNA modified

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10 oligonucleotides a dramatically increase in hybridisation properties for both complementary ssDNA and ssRNA is observed. The α -L-ribo-LNA – a special variant of the L-ribo-LNAs – in addition to the described properties has an ability to discriminate between RNA and DNA targets when hybridizing. Depending on the application, the use of fully modified L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides thus offers the intriguing possibility to either 15 greatly increase the affinity of a standard oligonucleotide without compromising specificity (constant size of oligonucleotide), significantly increase the specificity without compromising affinity (reduction in the size of the oligonucleotide) or specifically hybridize to RNA targets.

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20 It is also believed that L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides, in addition to greatly enhanced hybridisation properties, display many of the useful physicochemical properties of normal DNA and RNA oligonucleotides. The prospect includes excellent solubility, a 35 response of LNA modified oligonucleotides to salts like sodium chloride and tetramethylammonium chloride which mimic that of the unmodified oligonucleotides, the

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25 ability of LNA modified oligonucleotides to act as primers for a variety of polymerases, the ability of LNA modified nucleotides to act as primers in a target amplification reaction 40 using a thermostable DNA polymerase, the ability of LNA modified oligonucleotides to act as a substrate for T4 polynucleotide kinase, the ability of biotinylated LNAs to sequence 45 specifically capture PCR amplicons onto a streptavidine coated solid surface, the ability of

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30 immobilised LNA modified oligonucleotides to sequence specifically capture amplicons and very importantly the ability of LNA modified oligonucleotides to sequence specifically 50 target double-stranded DNA by strand invasion. Hence, it is apparent to one of ordinary skills in the art that these novel nucleoside analogues are extremely useful tools to improve the performance in general of oligonucleotide based techniques in therapeutics.

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35 diagnostics and molecular biology.

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10 An object of the present invention is to provide monomeric L-ribo-LNAs according to the invention which can be incorporated into oligonucleotides using procedures and equipment well known to one skilled in the art of oligonucleotide synthesis.

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5 Another object of the present invention is to provide fully or partly L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides (oligomers) that are able to hybridise in a sequence specific manner to complementary oligonucleotides forming either duplexes or triplexes of substantially higher affinity than the corresponding complexes formed by unmodified oligonucleotides.

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Another object of the present invention is to use fully L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides to obtain enhanced specificity of the oligonucleotides without compromising on the affinity.

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Another object of the present invention is to provide fully or partly modified oligonucleotides comprising both L-ribo-LNAs, normal nucleosides and other nucleoside analogues.

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A further object of the present invention is to exploit the high affinity of L-ribo-LNAs to create fully modified oligonucleotides of extreme affinity that are capable of binding to 20 their target sequences in a dsDNA molecule by way of "strand displacement".

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A further object of the invention is to provide different classes of L-ribo-LNAs which, when incorporated into oligonucleotides, differ in their affinity towards their complementary nucleosides. This can be achieved for example by substituting the normal nucleobases G, 25 A, T, C and U with derivatives having, for example, altered hydrogen bonding possibilities.

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Another object of the present invention is to provide L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides which are more resistant to nucleases than their unmodified counterparts.

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30 Another object of the present invention is to provide L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides which can discriminate between DNA and RNA targets when hybridizing. It has surprisingly been shown by T_m measurements that the T_m of α -L-ribo-LNA against complementary RNA oligonucleotides is increased 5.7°C per modification compared to only 2.7°C per modification against complementary DNA (as shown in example 11, Table

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35 3). α -L-ribo-LNA oligos will thus have an increased affinity towards RNA compared to

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DNA allowing conditions to be created under which α -L-ribo-LNA specifically will hybridize to a given RNA but not to a DNA having the same base sequence. This ability to discriminate between RNA and DNA can be exploited in a number of situations described below.

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Another object of the present invention is to provide L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides which can recruit RNaseH.

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An additional object of the present invention is to provide L-ribo-LNAs that can act as

10 substrates for DNA and RNA polymerases thereby allowing the analogues to be either incorporated into a growing nucleic acid chain or to act as chain terminators.

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A further object of the present invention is to provide L-ribo-LNAs that can act as therapeutic agents. Many examples of therapeutic nucleoside analogues are known and

25 similar derivatives of the nucleoside analogues disclosed herein can be synthesised using the procedures known from the literature (E. De Clercq, *J. Med. Chem.* 1995, **38**, 2491; P. Herdewijn and E. De Clercq: Classical Antiviral Agents and Design of New Antiviral Agents. In: *A Textbook of Drug Design and Development*; Eds. P. Krogsgaard-Larsen, T. Lilje fors and U. Madsen; Harwood Academic Publishers, Amsterdam, 1996, p. 425; I. K. 30 Larsen: Anticancer Agents. In: *A Textbook of Drug Design and Development*; Eds. P. Krogsgaard-Larsen, T. Lilje fors and U. Madsen; Harwood Academic Publishers, Amsterdam, 1996, p. 460).

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Double-stranded RNA has been demonstrated to posses anti-viral activity and tumour

25 suppressing activity (Sharp et al., *Eur. J. Biochem.* **230**(1): 97-103, 1995, Lengyel-P. et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, **90**(13): 5893-5, 1993, and Laurent-Crawford et al., *AIDS Res. Hum. Retroviruses*, **8**(2): 285-90, 1992). It is likely that double stranded LNAs may 40 mimic the effect of therapeutically active double stranded RNAs and accordingly such double stranded LNAs have a potential as therapeutic drugs.

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30 When used herein, the term "natural nucleic acid" refers to nucleic acids in the broadest sense, like for instance nucleic acids present in intact cells of any origin or virus or nucleic acids released from such sources by chemical or physical means or nucleic acids derived 50 from such primary sources by way of amplification. The natural nucleic acid may be

35 single, double or partly double stranded, and may be a relatively pure species or a mixture

5 of different nucleic acids. It may also be a component of a crude biological sample comprising other nucleic acids and other cellular components. On the other hand, the term "synthetic nucleic acids" refers to any nucleic acid produced by chemical synthesis.

10 5 The present invention also provides the use of L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides in nucleic acid based therapeutic, diagnostics and molecular biology. The L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides can be used in the detection, identification, capture, characterisation, quantification and fragmentation of natural or synthetic nucleic acids, and as blocking agents for translation and transcription *in vivo* and *in vitro*. In many cases 15 10 it will be of interest to attach various molecules to L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides. Such molecules may be attached to either end of the oligonucleotide or they may be attached at one or more internal positions. Alternatively, they may be attached to the oligonucleotide via spacers attached to the 5'- or 3'-end. Representative groups of such 20 15 molecules are DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands. Generally all methods for labelling unmodified DNA and RNA oligonucleotides with these molecules can also be used to 25 label L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides. Likewise, all methods used for detecting labelled oligonucleotides generally apply to the corresponding labelled, L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides.

30 20 Thus the use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide can be used for the labelling of cells, wherein the label allows the cells to be distinguishable or separated from unlabelled 35 cells.

25 *Therapy*

40 The term "strand displacement" relates to a process whereby an oligonucleotide binds to its complementary target sequence in a double stranded DNA or RNA so as to displace the other strand from said target strand.

45 30 In an aspect of the present invention, L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides capable of performing "strand displacement" are exploited in the development of novel pharmaceutical drugs based on the "antigene" approach. In contrast to oligonucleotides 50 35 capable of making triple helices, such "strand displacement" oligonucleotides allow any sequence in a dsDNA to be targeted and at physiological ionic strength and pH.

5

The "strand displacing" oligonucleotides can also be used advantageously in the antisense approach in cases where the RNA target sequence is inaccessible due to intramolecular hydrogen bonds. Such intramolecular structures may occur in mRNAs and 10 5 can cause significant problems when attempting to "shut down" the translation of the mRNA by the antisense approach.

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Other classes of cellular RNAs, like for instance tRNAs, rRNAs, snRNAs and scRNAs, comprise intramolecular structures that are important for their function. These classes of 10 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 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differences in the rRNA sequences between higher organisms to design LNA-oligos that inhibits the translation in one, but not in the other. One obvious application of this approach would be to develop LNAs specifically which inhibit translation in *Plasmodium* spp. (the Malaria parasites), *Schistosoma* spp. (causing Bilharzia), various filariae 10 5 (causing Elephantiasis and River Blindness), hookworms (causing anaemia) and other pathogenic parasites.

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The use of high affinity L-ribo-LNA monomers should facilitate the construction of antisense probes of sufficient thermostability to hybridise effectively to such target RNAs.

10 Therefore, in a preferred embodiment, L-ribo-LNA is used to confer sufficient affinity to the oligonucleotide to allow it to hybridise to these RNA classes thereby modulating the 20 qualitative and/or quantitative function of the particles in which the RNAs are found.

The L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides to be used in antisense therapeutics are

15 designed with the dual purpose of high affinity and ability to recruit RNaseH. This can be achieved by, for instance, having L-ribo-LNA segments flanking an unmodified central DNA segment. Furthermore, the special ability of the α -L-ribo-LNA to discriminate 20 between RNA and DNA can be exploited in various general therapeutic antisense 30 applications because of the α -L-ribo-LNA's preference for RNA. By designing α -L-ribo- 35 20 LNA oligonucleotides specific to the RNA of interest unspecific binding to DNA fragments with similar nucleotide sequence as the target RNA is avoided, thereby preventing stable 40 association of the α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides to the chromosomal DNA which can 45 change the structure of the DNA and thus induce mutations in the gene in question. This change in DNA structure and the associated mutations may cause unwanted toxic side- 25 effects.

40 Yet another embodiment of the present invention is to design ribozymes with increased specificity. Ribozymes are oligodeoxyribonucleotides and analogues thereof which 45 combine the RNase catalytic activity with the ability of sequence specific interaction with a 30 complementary RNA target. These have attracted much interest as therapeutic molecules and it appears highly likely that the attractive features of α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides 45 can be used to improve the design of ribozymes directed against specific RNAs.

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Yet another embodiment of the present invention is L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides which 35 specifically interact with cellular nucleoproteins which contain RNA as an integrated and

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essential component of the active protein, two examples here for ribosomes and telomerase. The ability of α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides to inhibit telomerase can be applied to important applications.

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5 The chromosomes of higher eukaryotes (including man) are linear. The primary structure (the DNA sequence) of the chromosome ends has been elucidated and it turns out that the DNA sequences of all chromosome ends – in a particular organism – consist of a simple repeating unit with a protruding single-stranded end. The chromosome end is called the telomere. In man telomeres contain long stretches of double stranded multiple

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10 repeats of the sequence 5'-TTAGGG-3' (sequence of one strand, in the direction from the centromere towards the chromosome end). Since all DNA polymerases require both template strand and oligonucleotide primer to initiate the synthesis of a complementary DNA strand, DNA polymerase in itself is not able to replicate the extreme ends of the chromosomes. This would lead to a progressive shortening of the chromosomes, when

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15 the chromosomes are replicated. Looking on the length of the telomeres in normal somatic cells the telomer-length indeed seems to become shorter during each cycle of replication until the telomere is only 5-15 kb in length. When the telomeres are that short, cells normally cease to divide and gradually enters the phase of senescence. The only exception to this is the stem-cells. Stem-cells are specialized cells that are able to

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20 continue to divide during the life of an organism. Interestingly the telomeres of stem-cells continues to be long (10-15 kb). They do so because of the activity of a particular enzyme, the telomerase. Telomerase is a unique enzyme that is able specifically to prolong the protruding single-stranded end of the telomere, thus allowing the telomere to be stably long. Telomerase is a ribonucleoprotein enzyme, i.e. a protein that contains an RNA and

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35 25 is dependant on the RNA for its enzymatic activity. The structure of telomerase is somewhat similar to reverse transcriptase – a viral protein that also is able to synthesize DNA using an RNA as template.

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The enzymatic capacity of telomerase is dependant on the correct positioning of the free 30 telomere 3' end on the RNA molecule to prolong the telomere. Molecules that are able 45 specifically to interact with either the extreme end of the telomere or perhaps with the RNA component of telomerase will inhibit the enzyme. α -L-ribo-LNA can be designed to fulfil these requirements. This will be interesting in e.g. cancer therapy as – except for 50 stem cells – normal somatic cells do not contain detectable telomerase activity which is in 35 vast contrast to cancer cells, most of which contain easily detectable telomerase activity. Cancer cells are immortal, i.e. they do not senesce but continues to proliferate and form

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tumour mass until the organism die. The overall evidence to date suggests that the telomerase activity is essential for the immortalization of cancer cells. Interestingly, the telomeres of cancer cells are substantially shorter than the telomeres of stem cells indicating that cancer cells would hit the "telomere length barrier" earlier than stem cells

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would and suggesting that a drug that specifically inhibits telomerase activity is useful as an anti-cancer drug.

15

In this view it will be an important issue to exploit the exceptional properties of α -L-ribo-LNA to design short α -L-ribo-LNA-oligomers directed against specific parts of the

10 telomerase RNA component with the purpose to inhibit the telomerase activity of human cancer cells.

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Another embodiment of the present invention is the use of L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides especially α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides as aptamers. This promising new class of

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therapeutic oligonucleotides are selected *in vitro* to specifically bind to a given target with high affinity, such as for example ligand receptors. Their binding characteristics are likely a reflection of the ability of oligonucleotides to form three dimensional structures held together by intramolecular nucleobase pairing. It is highly likely that aptamers containing α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides may display advantageous characteristics that can be

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20 exploited for therapeutic purposes.

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In some cases it may be advantageous to down-regulate the expression of a gene whereas in other cases it may be advantageous to activate it. As shown by Møllegaard et al. (Møllegaard, N. E.; Buchardt, O.; Egholm, M.; Nielsen, P. E. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 1994, 91, 3892), oligomers capable of "strand displacement" can function as RNA transcriptional activators. In an aspect of the present invention, the LNAs capable of "strand displacement" are used to activate genes of therapeutic interest.

40

In chemotherapy of numerous viral infections and cancers, various forms of nucleosides and nucleoside analogues have proven effective. L-ribo-LNA nucleosides are potentially useful as such nucleoside based drugs.

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In a number of cases, double-stranded RNA (DS-RNA) has been reported to have specific pharmaceutical activities. Duplexes involving fully L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide(s) 35 are potentially useful as such double-stranded drugs and it is furthermore highly possible

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that double-stranded α -L-rib -LNA ligonucle tid s will add important molecules to th repertoire of biologically active double-stranded RNA-like molecules.

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The therapeutic potential of double-stranded LNA (DS-LNA) may therefore be in the 5 treatment of cancer or viral infections, as explained below.

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Various types of DS-RNAs either alone or in synergy with interferon-gamma have been reported to inhibit the growth of several types of cancer cells (Borecky et al. *Tex Rep Biol Med*, 1981, 41, 575; Sharp et al. *Eur J Biochem*, 1995, 230(1), 97). DS-RNAs inhibit the

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10 growth of cancer cells in culture as well as in tumours in experimental animals. At least two double-stranded RNA-activatable enzymes seem to be involved in the tumour-suppressing activity of DS-RNA, the double-stranded RNA-activatable protein kinase (PKR) and ribonuclease L (Lengyel-P, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA*, 1993, 90(13), 5893). Whereas PKR is activated directly by DS-RNA, RNase L is activated by DS-RNA via (2'- 15 5')oligoadenylate synthetase which is latent unless activated by DS-RNA. DS-RNA also induces natural killer (NK) cell activity and this activity probably contribute to the anti-tumour activity of DS-RNA.

30

Although naturally occurring DS-RNA typically is associated with virus infection, DS-RNA 20 has been demonstrated to also posses anti-viral activity. DS-RNA has demonstrated its antiviral activity against the human immunodeficiency virus HIV-1 and HIV-2 (Haines et al. *J Cell Biochem*, 1991, 46(1), 9). DS-RNA and thus DS-LNA may therefore be a potential 35 candidate as a therapeutic drug in treating AIDS.

40

25 DS-RNA has yet to prove its clinical efficacy in practice. However, mammalian cells contain a number of DS-RNA specific nucleases and perhaps because these activities DS-RNA is rapidly eliminated from patients. LNA is rather similar to RNA and shares most of the chemical characteristics of RNA (Koshkin et al., *Tetrahedron*, 1998, 54, 3607), LNA form stable duplexes and the structural change from RNA to LNA is rather subtle.

45

30 Thus, it is likely that adequate double-stranded LNAs may mimic the effect of certain DS-RNAs and accordingly activate PKR and/or (2'-5')oligoadenylate synthetase and since LNA has proven itself to display exonucleolytic stability (Singh et al., *Chem. Commun.*, 1998, 455) it is possible that DS-LNA-molecules may exhibit improved therapeutic 50 efficacy relative to DS-RNA.

5

The invention also concerns a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically active L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide or a pharmaceutically active L-ribo-LNA monomer as defined above in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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- 5 Such compositions may be in a form adapted to oral, parenteral (intravenous, intraperitoneal), intramuscular, rectal, intranasal, dermal, vaginal, buccal, ocularly, or pulmonary administration, preferably in a form adapted to oral administration, and such compositions may be prepared in a manner well-known to the person skilled in the art, e.g. as generally described in "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences", 17. Ed. Alfonso R. Gennaro (Ed.), 10 Mark Publishing Company, Easton, PA, U.S.A., 1985 and more recent editions and in the monographs in the "Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences" series, Marcel Dekker.

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Diagnostics

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- 15 Several diagnostic and molecular biology procedures have been developed that utilise panels of different oligonucleotides to simultaneously analyse a target nucleic acid for the presence of a plethora of possible mutations. Typically, the oligonucleotide panels are immobilised in a predetermined pattern on a solid support such that the presence of a particular mutation in the target nucleic acid can be revealed by the position on the solid support where it hybridises. One important prerequisite for the successful use of panels of different oligonucleotides in the analysis of nucleic acids is that they are all specific for their particular target sequence under the single applied hybridisation condition. Since the affinity and specificity of standard oligonucleotides for their complementary target sequences depend heavily on their sequence and size this criteria has been difficult to fulfil 20 so far.

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- 40 Furthermore, a number of techniques have been developed to characterize the various types of RNA that cells may contain. A common approach to the characterization is nucleic acid hybridisation, examples of such techniques are: *in situ* hybridisation, dot blot 45 hybridisation, reverse dot blot hybridisation, northern hybridisation, and reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rtPCR). Often these techniques are prepared on samples containing both DNA and RNA, and frequently this fact creates problems in the assays that easily could be avoided if probes existed that were adequately discriminatory between DNA and RNA. This is in particular a problem in *in situ* hybridisations performed on 50 35 various tissue specimens. With its highly discriminative hybridization properties towards

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RNA an α -L-ribo-LNA oligo can be designed to specifically hybridize with the RNA in the sample thereby eliminating the possibility of erroneous results obtained from hybridization to irrelevant DNAs with the same nucleotide sequence.

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- 5 In a preferred embodiment, therefore, L-ribo-LNAs can be used as a means to increase affinity and/or specificity of the probes and as a means to equalise the affinity of different oligonucleotides for their complementary sequences. As disclosed herein such affinity modulation can be accomplished by, e.g., replacing selected nucleosides in the oligonucleotide with a L-ribo-LNA carrying a similar nucleobase. In particular, this applies to α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides.

20

In another preferred embodiment the high affinity and specificity of L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides is exploited in the sequence specific capture and purification of natural or synthetic nucleic acids. In one aspect, the natural or synthetic nucleic acids are contacted

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- 15 with the L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide immobilised on a solid surface. In this case hybridisation and capture occurs simultaneously. The captured nucleic acids may be, for instance, detected, characterised, quantified or amplified directly on the surface by a variety of methods well known in the art or it may be released from the surface, before such characterisation or amplification occurs, by subjecting the immobilised, modified oligonucleotide and captured nucleic acid to dehybridising conditions, such as for example heat or by using buffers of low ionic strength.

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- 35 The solid support may be chosen from a wide range of polymer materials such as for instance CPG (controlled pore glass), polypropylene, polystyrene, polycarbonate or polyethylene and it may take a variety of forms such as for instance a tube, a micro-titer plate, a stick, a bead, a filter, etc. The L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide may be immobilised to the solid support via its 5' or 3' end (or via the terminus of linkers attached to the 5' or 3' end) by a variety of chemical or photochemical methods usually employed in the immobilisation of oligonucleotides or by non-covalent coupling such as for instance via binding of a biotinylated L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide to immobilised streptavidin. One preferred method for immobilising L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides on different solid supports is photochemical using a photochemically active anthraquinone covalently attached to the 5'- or 3'-end of the modified oligonucleotide (optionally via linkers) as described in (WO 96/31557). Thus, the present invention also provide a surface carrying an 40 45 50 55 35 LNA modified oligonucleotide.

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10 In another aspect the L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide carries a ligand covalently attached to either the 5'- or 3'-end. In this case the L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide is contacted with the natural or synthetic nucleic acids in solution whereafter the hybrids

15 5 formed are captured onto a solid support carrying molecules that can specifically bind the ligand.

20 15 In still another aspect, L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides capable of performing "strand displacement" are used in the capture of natural and synthetic nucleic acids without prior

25 10 denaturation. Such modified oligonucleotides are particularly useful in cases where the target sequence is difficult or impossible to access by normal oligonucleotides due to the rapid formation of stable intramolecular structures. Examples of nucleic acids comprising such structures are rRNA, tRNA, snRNA and scRNA.

30 25 15 In another preferred embodiment, L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides designed with the purpose of high specificity are used as primers in the sequencing of nucleic acids and as primers in any of the several well known amplification reactions, such as the PCR reaction. As shown herein, the design of the L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides determines whether it will sustain an exponential or linear target amplification. The products of the

35 20 20 amplification reaction can be analysed by a variety of methods applicable to the analysis of amplification products generated with normal DNA primers. In the particular case where the L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide primers are designed to sustain a linear amplification the resulting amplicons will carry single stranded ends that can be targeted by complementary probes without denaturation. Such ends could for instance be used to

40 25 25 capture amplicons by other complementary L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides attached to a solid surface.

45 30 In another aspect, L-ribo-LNA modified oligos capable of "strand displacement" are used as primers in either linear or exponential amplification reactions. The use of such oligos is

45 35 30 expected to enhance overall amplicon yields by effectively competing with amplicon re-hybridisation in the later stages of the amplification reaction. Demers et al. (*Nucl. Acid Res.* 1995, 23, 3050-3055) discloses the use of high-affinity, non-extendible oligos as a means of increasing the overall yield of a PCR reaction. It is believed that the oligomers elicit these effects by interfering with amplicon re-hybridisation in the later stages of the

50 35 35 PCR reaction. It is expected that L-ribo-LNA modified oligos blocked at their 3' end will

5 provide the same advantage. Blocking of the 3' end can be achieved in numerous ways like for instance by exchanging the 3' hydroxyl group with hydrogen or phosphate. Such 3' blocked L-ribo-LNA modified oligos can also be used to selectively amplify closely related
10 nucleic acid sequences in a way similar to that described by Yu et al. (*Biotechniques*,
15 5 1997, 23, 714-716).

15 In recent years, novel classes of probes that can be used in for example real-time detection
20 of amplicons generated by target amplification reactions have been invented. One such class of probes have been termed "Molecular Beacons". These probes are synthesised as partly self-complementary oligonucleotides comprising a fluorophor at one end and a quencher molecule at the other end. When free in solution the probe folds up into a hairpin structure (guided by the self-complementary regions) which positions the quencher in sufficient closeness to the fluorophor to quench its fluorescent signal. Upon hybridisation
25 to its target nucleic acid, the hairpin opens thereby separating the fluorophor and quencher and giving off a fluorescent signal.

25 Another class of probes has been termed "Taqman probes". These probes also comprise a fluorophor and a quencher molecule. Contrary to the Molecular Beacons, however, the quencher's ability to quench the fluorescent signal from the fluorophor is maintained after
30 20 hybridisation of the probe to its target sequence. Instead, the fluorescent signal is generated after hybridisation by physical detachment of either the quencher or fluorophor from the probe by the action of the 5' exonuclease activity of a polymerase which has initiated
35 synthesis from a primer located 5' to the binding site of the Taqman probe.

35 25 High affinity for the target site is an important feature in both types of probes and consequently such probes tend to be fairly large (typically 30 to 40 mers). As a result, significant problems are encountered in the production of high quality probes. In a preferred embodiment, therefore, LNA is used to improve production and subsequent performance
40 30 of Taqman probes and Molecular Beacons by reducing their size whilst retaining the required affinity.

45 45 In a further aspect, L-ribo-LNAs are used to construct new affinity pairs (either fully or partially modified oligonucleotides). The affinity constants can easily be adjusted over a wide range and a vast number of affinity pairs can be designed and synthesised. One part of
50 35 the affinity pair can be attached to the molecule of interest (e.g. proteins, amplicons, en-

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zymes, polysaccharides, antibodies, haptens, peptides, PNA, etc.) by standard methods, while the other part of the affinity pair can be attached to e.g. a solid support such as beads, membranes, micro-titer plates, sticks, tubes, etc. The solid support may be chosen from a wide range of polymer materials such as for instance polypropylene, polystyrene, 10 polycarbonate or polyethylene. The affinity pairs may be used in selective isolation, purification, capture and detection of a diversity of the target molecules mentioned above.

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The principle of capturing a L-ribo-LNA-tagged molecule by ways of interaction with another complementary L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotide (either fully or partially modified) can be 10 used to create an infinite number of novel affinity pairs.

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In another preferred embodiment the high affinity and specificity of L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides are exploited in the construction of probes useful in *in-situ* hybridisation. For instance, L-ribo-LNA could be used to reduce the size of traditional DNA probes while 15 maintaining the required affinity thereby increasing the kinetics of the probe and its ability to penetrate the sample specimen.

Purification

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20 Another embodiment of the present invention is to use the L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides especially α -L-ribo-LNA oligonucleotides in RNA-specific purification procedures. The methods traditionally employed to isolate nucleic acids from pro- 35 karyotic cells, eukaryotic cells or from complex biological samples uses organic solvents such as phenol and chloroform. These nucleic acid isolations typically begin 25 with an enzymatic digest of the sample performed with proteases followed by cell lysis using ionic detergents and then extraction with phenol or a phenol/chloroform 40 combination. The organic and aqueous phases are separated and nucleic acids which have partitioned into the aqueous phase are recovered by precipitation with alcohol. 45 However, phenol or a phenol/chloroform mixture is corrosive to human skin and is 30 considered as hazardous waste which must be carefully handled and properly discarded. Additionally, standard extractions using the phenol/chloroform methods result in mixtures 50 of RNA and DNA. Therefore it is advantageous to prepare nucleic acid isolation by exploiting the ability of α -L-ribo-LNA to discriminate between RNA and DNA, thereby obtaining samples of pure RNA.

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Kits

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The present invention also provides a kit for the isolation, purification, amplification, detection, identification, quantification, or capture of natural or synthetic nucleic acids, where 5 the kit comprises a reaction body and one or more L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides (oligomer) as defined herein. The L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides are preferably immobilised onto said reaction body.

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The present invention also provides a kit for the isolation, purification, amplification, detection, identification, quantification, or capture of natural or synthetic nucleic acids, where 10 the kit comprises a reaction body and one or more L-ribo-LNAs as defined herein. The L-ribo-LNAs are preferably immobilised onto said reactions body (e.g. by using the immobilising techniques described above).

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15 For the kits according to the invention, the reaction body is preferably a solid support material, e.g. selected from borosilicate glass, soda-lime glass, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyethyleneglycol terephthalate, polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl-pyrrolidinone, polymethylmethacrylate and polyvinylchloride, preferably polystyrene and polycarbonate. The reaction body may be in the form of a specimen tube, a vial, a slide, a 20 sheet, a film, a bead, a pellet, a disc, a plate, a ring, a rod, a net, a filter, a tray, a microtitre plate, a stick, or a multi-bladed stick.

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The kits are typically accompanied by a written instruction sheet stating the optimal conditions for use of the kit.

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EXPERIMENTAL

General

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5 Reactions were conducted under an atmosphere of nitrogen when anhydrous solvents were used. Column chromatography was carried out on glass columns using Silica gel 60 (0.040-0.063 mm). After column chromatography, fractions containing product were pooled, evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and dried under vacuum to give the product. After drying organic phases using Na_2SO_4 , filtration was performed.

15 Petroleum ether of distillation range 60-80 °C was used. Chemical shift values δ are in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane as internal reference (^1H and ^{13}C NMR) and relative to 85% H_3PO_4 (^{31}P NMR). Microanalyses were performed at The Microanalytical Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of Copenhagen.

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25 15 The specific descriptions below are accompanied by Figures 1-4 and Tables 1-3.

Preparation of L-ribo-LNA monomers

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Example 1:

20 **5-O-Benzoyl-4-C-benzoyloxymethyl-3-O-benzyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene- α -D-glucofuranose (2).**

35 To a stirred ice cold solution of 3-O-benzyl-4-C-hydroxymethyl-1,2-isopropylidene- α -D-glucofuranose (1) (5.00 g, 0.016 mol) in anhydrous pyridine (60 cm³) was added benzoyl chloride (4.1 cm³, 0.035 mol). After stirring at room temperature for 4 h, the reaction

40 mixture was cooled to 0 °C, H_2O (50 cm³) was added, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (100 cm³ x 3). The combined organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous solutions of sodium hydrogen carbonate (30 cm³ x 3) and brine (20 cm³ x 3), dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using first petroleum ether/dichloromethane

45 (1:1, v/v) and then dichloromethane/methanol (99:1, v/v) as eluent to give furanose 2 (7.50 g, 90%) as a yellowish oil after evaporation of the solvents under reduced pressure. δ_{H} (CDCl_3) 8.02-7.23 (15H, m), 6.08 (1H, d, J 4.2), 4.81-4.50 (7H, m), 4.22 (1H, d, J 1.0), 1.59 (3H, s), 1.37 (3H, s). δ_{C} (CDCl_3) 166.1, 165.8, 136.7, 133.1, 133.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 113.3, 105.4, 86.4, 85.1, 83.8, 72.3, 64.3, 63.8,

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27.0, 26.4. FAB-MS m/z 521 [M+H]⁺. Found (%) C, 69.1; H, 5.9; $C_{30}H_{32}O_8$ requires C, 69.2; H, 6.2.

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Example 2:

5 **5-O-Benzoyl-4-C-benzoyloxymethyl-3-O-benzyl-1,2-di-O-acetyl-D-glucofuranose (3).**
A solution of furanose 2 (7.40 g, 0.014 mol) in 80% acetic acid (60 cm³) was stirred 9 h at 90 °C. The mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was coevaporated with toluene (10 cm³ x 3) and dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (80 cm³). Acetic anhydride (5.5 cm³) was added and the solution was stirred for 46 h at room

10 temperature. The mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was coevaporated with toluene (10 cm³ x 3) and dissolved in dichloromethane (150 cm³). The solution was washed with saturated aqueous solutions of sodium hydrogen carbonate (30 cm³ x 3) and brine (30 cm³ x 3), dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using first

15 petroleum ether/dichloromethane (1:1, v/v) and then dichloromethane/methanol (99:1, v/v) as eluent to give the anomeric mixture 3 ($\alpha:\beta = 3:1$, 7.33 g, 92%) as a clear oil after evaporation of the solvents under reduced pressure. This oil was used in the next step without further purification. δ_C ($CDCl_3$) 169.4, 169.0, 165.8, 165.6, 137.0, 133.2, 133.1, 133.0, 129.6, 129.5, 129.2, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 99.4, 92.3, 87.0, 83.2, 82.2, 80.7,

20 77.4, 76.9, 76.3, 73.2, 72.4, 20.9, 20.8, 20.6, 20.3. FAB-MS m/z 562 [M]⁺.

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Example 3:

35 **1-(2-O-Acetyl-5-O-benzoyl-4-C-benzoyloxymethyl-3-O-benzyl- β -D-xylofuranosyl)thymine (4).**

40 To a stirred suspension of the anomeric mixture 3 (7.26 g, 0.013 mol) and thymine (3.25 g, 0.028 mol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (80 cm³) was added *N,O*-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide (19.1 cm³, 0.077 mol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h and then cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl triflate (4.1 cm³, 0.023 mol) was added drop-wise during 10 min and the mixture was subsequently heated for 22 h under reflux. After cooling to room temperature,

45 a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (30 cm³) was added and extraction was performed using dichloromethane (100 cm³ x 3). The combined organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous solutions of sodium hydrogen carbonate (30 cm³ x 3) and brine (50 cm³ x 3), dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using dichloromethane/

50 methanol (0.5-2.0% methanol, v/v) as eluent to give nucleoside 4 (6.88 g, 85 %) as a white

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solid material after evaporation of the solvents under reduced pressure. δ_H (CDCl₃) 8.97 (1H, br s), 8.04-7.23 (16H, m), 6.37 (1H, d, J 3.6), 5.42 (1H, t, J 3.1), 4.89-4.56 (6H, m), 4.22 (1H, d, J 2.6), 2.13 (3H, s), 1.74 (1H, d, J 0.8). δ_C (CDCl₃) 169.9, 166.0, 165.7, 163.4, 150.4, 136.2, 135.2, 133.5, 133.4, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 112.0, 87.4, 86.0, 81.3, 80.3, 72.6, 63.1, 62.9, 20.8, 12.3. FAB-MS *m/z* 629 [M+H]⁺. Found (%) C, 64.4; H, 4.9; N, 4.4; C₃₄H₃₂N₂O₁₀0.25H₂O requires C, 64.5; H, 5.1; N, 4.4.

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15 **Example 4:****1-(3-O-Benzyl-4-C-hydroxymethyl- β -D-xylofuranosyl)thymine (5).**

10 To a stirred solution of nucleoside 4 (9.00 g, 0.014 mol) in methanol (130 cm³) was added sodium methoxide (3.87 g, 0.0716 mol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room 20 temperature for 4 h and then neutralized with dilute hydrochloric acid. The mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure followed by coevaporation using toluene (15 cm³ x 3). The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using dichloro-25 methane/methanol (4-15% methanol, v/v) as eluent to give nucleoside triol 5 (4.82 g, 89%) as a white solid material after evaporation of the solvents under reduced pressure. δ_H (CD₃OD) 7.89 (1H, d, J 1.2), 7.40-7.24 (5H, m), 5.97 (1H, d, J 6.2), 4.83-4.65 (2H, m), 4.53 (1H, t, J 6.2), 4.21 (1H, d, J 6.2), 3.84 (1H, d, J 12.0), 3.63 (1H, d, J 12.0), 3.59 (2H, d, J 30 2.6), 1.82 (1H, d, J 1.1). δ_C (CD₃OD) 164.4, 150.9, 137.5, 136.6, 127.5, 127.0, 126.9, 109.8, 86.7, 86.4, 82.8, 78.0, 72.1, 62.3, 61.1, 10.5 (CH₃). FAB-MS *m/z* 379 [M+H]⁺. Found (%) C, 56.2; H, 6.0; N, 7.0; C₁₈H₂₂N₂O₇0.25H₂O requires C, 56.5; H, 5.9; N, 7.3.

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35 **Example 5:****1-(3-O-Benzyl-4-C-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)- β -D-xylofuranosyl)thymine (6).**

25 To a solution of nucleoside 1-(3-O-Benzyl-4-C-hydroxymethyl- β -D-xylofuranosyl)thymine 40 5 (5.38 g, 14.2 mmol) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (400 cm³) was added AgNO₃ (2.66 g, 15.7 mmol) followed by anhydrous pyridine (5.7 cm³) and 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride (5.30 g, 15.6 mmol). The mixture was stirred in the dark under nitrogen for 18 h at room 45 temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (10 cm³) and the resulting mixture was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic phase was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was co-evaporated with toluene and was purified by silica gel 50 column chromatography using dichloromethane/methanol/pyridine (0.5 % methanol; 0.5 % pyridine, v/v) as eluent to afford nucleoside 6 (3.13 g, 31%) as a white foam after 35 evaporation of the solvents. δ_C ((CD₃)₂SO) 164.1 (C-4), 158.4, 145.1, 138.5, 137.0, 135.9,

5 135.7, 130.1, 130.1, 129.2, 128.5, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.6, 127.0, 125.7, 113.5
(DMT, benzyl, C-6), 151.4 (C-2), 110.1 (C-5), 85.8, 85.2, 84.6, 83.5 (C-1', C-3', C-4',
DMT), 76.8 (C-2'), 72.3 (CH₂Ph), 65.2 (C-5''), 62.1 (C-5'), 55.4 (2x CH₃O), 12.6 (5-CH₃).
10

5 **Example 6:**

15 **1-(3-O-Benzyl-4-C-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-2,5-di-O-(*p*-toluenesulphonyl)- β -D-xylofuranosyl)thymine (7).**

20 To a solution of nucleoside 6 (2.79 g, 3.9 mmol) in anhydrous pyridine (50 cm³) was added a catalytic amount of 4-(*N,N*-dimethylamino)pyridine and *p*-toluenesulphonyl
10 chloride (6.50 g, 34 mmol). The mixture was stirred in the dark for 24 h at room
temperature under nitrogen. The reaction was quenched by addition of a saturated
20 aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (100 cm³) and the resulting mixture was
extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic phase was washed with saturated
aqueous solutions of sodium hydrogen carbonate (3 x 75 cm³) and sodium chloride (2 x
25 75 cm³). The separated organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to dryness
under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography
using dichloromethane/methanol/pyridine (0.5 % methanol; 0.5 % pyridine, v/v) as eluent
to afford nucleoside 7 (2.40 g, 62 %) as a yellowish foam after evaporation of the
30 solvents. δ_C ((CD₃)₂SO) 163.2 (C-4), 158.2, 145.9, 145.1, 144.3, 136.8, 135.0, 134.9,
35 134.8, 131.8, 131.6, 130.2, 130.0, 129.7, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.5, 127.5, 127.4,
126.8, 113.3 (DMT, C-6, 2 x Ts, benzyl), 150.2 (C-2), 110.8 (C-5), 95.0, 86.2 (DMT, C-4'),
82.2, 81.9 (C-1', C-2'), 81.2 (C-3'), 72.9 (CH₂Ph), 79 (C-5''), 64 (C-5'), 55.1 (2 x CH₃O),
21.2, 21.2 (2 x CH₃), 12.0 (5-CH₃).
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25 **Example 7:**

40 **(1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-Benzyl-1-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (8).**

45 To a solution of nucleoside 7 (3.87 g, 3.92 mmol) in a mixture of ethanol and H₂O (1:1,
v/v) was added an aqueous solution of NaOH (2M, 8 cm³). The mixture was heated under
30 reflux for 24 h and after cooling extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic
phase was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (2 x
75 cm³) and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by
silica gel column chromatography using dichloromethane/methanol/pyridine (0.5 %
50 methanol; 0.5 % pyridine, v/v) as eluent to afford nucleoside 8 (2.10 g, 81 %) as a white
35 foam after evaporation of the solvents. δ_C ((CD₃)₂SO) 163.8 (C-4), 158.2, 158.1, 144.7,

5

137.7, 135.9, 135.2, 135.1, 129.8, 129.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 127.7, 127.4, 126.7, 113.35 (DMT, benzyl, C-6) 150.3 (C-2), 108.1 (C-5), 88.4, 85.5 (C-4', DMT), 86.4 (C-1'), 79.5 (C-2'), 76.3 (C-3'), 72.6 (C-5'), 71.2 (CH₂Ph), 58.9 (C-5''), 55.1 (2 x CH₃O), 12.4 (5-CH₃).

10

5 Example 8:

(1R,3R,4S,7R)-1-(4,4'-Dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-7-hydroxy-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (9).

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To a solution of nucleoside 8 (1.09 g, 1.65 mmol) in methanol (30 cm³) was added ammonium formate (0.33 g, 5.29 mmol). A catalytic amount of Pd/C suspended in

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methanol (10 cm³) was added and the mixture was heated for 2 h under reflux. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using dichloromethane/methanol/pyridine (2 % methanol; 0.5 % pyridine, v/v) as eluent to afford nucleoside 9 (0.76 g, 80 %) as a white solid material after evaporation of the solvents. δ_C

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((CD₃)₂SO) 163.9 (C-4), 158.2, 144.8, 135.8, 135.4, 135.3, 129.8, 127.9, 127.7, 126.8, 113.3 (DMT, C-6), 150.4 (C-2), 108.0 (C-5), 89.2, 85.4 (C-4', DMT), 86.4 (C-1'), 78.9 (C-2'), 72.9 (C-3'), 72.3 (C-5'), 59.9 (C-5''), 55.1 (2 x CH₃O), 12.5 (5-CH₃).

30

Example 9:

(1R,3R,4S,7R)-7-(2-Cyanoethoxy(diisopropylamino)phosphinoxy)-1-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (10).

35

To a solution of nucleoside 9 (420 mg, 0.73 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (4 cm³) was added *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (0.4 cm³) and 2-cyanoethyl *N,N*-diisopropyl-phosphoramidochloridite (0.4 cm³). The mixture was stirred in the dark under nitrogen for 18 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of methanol and the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 cm³), washed with saturated aqueous solutions of sodium hydrogen carbonate (3 x 10 cm³) and sodium chloride (2 x 10 cm³) and was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was co-evaporated with anhydrous acetonitrile and was purified by silica gel column chromatography using

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petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/pyridine (30 – 40 % ethyl acetate; 0.2 % pyridine, v/v) as eluent to give an oil. This oil was dissolved in dichloromethane (1 cm³) and a product was precipitated from petroleum ether (20 cm³) at – 40 °C with vigorous stirring. The precipitate was collected by filtration and co-evaporated with anhydrous acetonitrile to give nucleoside 10 (117 mg, 21 %) as a white foam. δ_P (CH₃CN) 149.9, 149.3.

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Preparation of LNA lig nucleotides**Example 10:****Synthesis of unmodified oligonucleotides and oligonucleotides comprising L-ribo-****5 LNA derived from phosphoramidite 10 (formula X).**

L-ribo-LNA and reference oligonucleotides were prepared on a Biosearch 8750 DNA

Synthesizer. Coupling of amidite 10 was performed by "hand coupling" (premixing amidite

15 and the activator in acetonitrile in a syringe; then flushing the column reactor

approximately twice every minute throughout the coupling time applied; CPG solid

10 supports). Synthesis of the L-ribo-LNAs were accomplished using pyridine hydrochloride

as activator (10-30 min coupling time; step-wise coupling yields for amidite 10 were 96-99%). The unmodified 2'-deoxynucleoside 2-cyanoethyl *N,N*-diisopropylphosphoramidites

were coupled by use of the standard DNA-program of the synthesiser except for the

couplings immediately following an X monomer which were conducted according to the

15 RNA program of the synthesiser. After completion of the sequences, deprotection using

concentrated ammonia in methanol (32% (w/w), room temperature, 12 h) of 5'-O-DMT-ON

oligos and subsequently reversed phase purification (commercially available disposable

cartridges (Cruachem); procedure includes detritylation) yielded the final oligomeric

30 products. However, for the unmodified oligonucleotides and the L-ribo-LNA comprising

20 only one X monomer the 5'-O-DMT group was removed on the synthesiser immediately

after completion of the sequences. Subsequent treatment with concentrated ammonia in

35 methanol (32% (w/w), 12 h, 55 °C) and ethanol precipitation afforded the product

oligomers. Capillary gel electrophoresis was used to analyse the purity of the synthesised

L-ribo-LNAs.

25

Hybridisation data

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Example 11:**Thermostability of oligonucleotides comprising monomer X.**

30 The thermostability of the L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides were determined

45 spectrophotometrically using a spectrophotometer equipped with a thermoregulated

Peltier element. Hybridisation mixtures of 1 ml were prepared using a medium salt buffer

50 solution (10mM Na₂HPO₄, pH 7.0, 100mM NaCl, 0.1mM EDTA) and equimolar (1 μM or

1.5 μM) amounts of the different L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides and their

35 complementary DNA or RNA oligonucleotides. Identical hybridisation mixtures using the

5 unmodified oligonucleotides were prepared as references. The absorbance at 260 nm
was recorded while the temperature was raised linearly from 10-90 °C (1°C/min). The
10 melting temperatures (T_m values) were obtained as the maxima (+/- 1 °C) of first
derivative of the melting curves. Tables 1-3 summarise the results (L-ribo-LNAs are
5 marked with bold). Figure 2 illustrates the monomeric L-ribo-LNA used.

15 From Table 1 it can be seen that incorporation of one or more consecutive α -L-ribo-LNA
monomers **X** into an oligonucleotide sequence (A) and (B), does not change the binding
affinity of the α -L-ribo-LNAs toward complementary DNA, while the binding affinity
10 towards complementary RNA is strongly increased.

20 Table 2 shows binding studies of homo-thymine diastereoisomeric LNAs towards RNA
(rA₁₄), singly mis-matched RNA (5'-r(A₆CA₇)), enantiomeric RNA (*ent*-rA₁₄) and singly mis-
matched enantiomeric RNA (*ent*-5'-r(A₆CA₇)).

25 Table 3 shows binding studies of mixed-sequence 9-mer DNA, LNA and α -L-ribo-LNA.

30 Alternative method

20 Example 12:

35 1-(3-O-Benzyl-2,5-di-O-methanesulfonyl-4-C-(methanesulfonyloxyethyl)- β -D-
xylofuranosyl)thymine (11). To a solution of nucleoside 5 (1100 mg, 2.91 mmol) in
anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (20 cm³) was added anhydrous pyridine (5 cm³) followed by
methanesulfonyl chloride (1.2 ml, 15.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred under a nitrogen
25 atmosphere for 18 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was evaporated to
dryness under reduced pressure and dissolved in ethyl acetate. The organic phase was
40 washed with saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (3 x 10 cm³) and
dried (Na₂SO₄). The organic phase was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure.
The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using dichloromethane/
45 methanol (2 % methanol, v/v) as eluent to afford nucleoside 11 (908 mg, 51 %). δ_c
(CDCl₃) 163.3, 150.6, 135.6, 134.6, 128.7, 128.3, 112.2, 87.9, 85.0, 83.1, 80.9, 77.2, 76.9,
76.6, 73.3, 66.6, 66.2, 38.6, 37.6, 37.6, 12.2.

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Example 13:

(1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-1-(Hydroxymethyl)-7-benzyloxy-3-(thymin-1-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo-[2.2.1]heptane (12).

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To a solution of nucleoside 11 (329 mg, 0.54 mmol) in ethanol/water (10 cm³, 1:1, v/v)

5 was added 6M NaOH (aq) (0.9 ml, 5.4 mmol). The mixture was refluxed at 80 °C for 43 h followed by evaporation to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using dichloromethane/methanol (2.4 % methanol, v/v) as eluent to afford nucleoside 12 (85 mg, 44 %). δ_c ((CD₃)₂SO) 163.8, 150.3, 138.0, 135.8, 15
128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 108.0, 90.2, 86.5, 86.4, 79.3, 76.5, 72.5, 71.2, 57.2, 40.2, 40.0, 39.8, 10 39.6, 39.4, 39.2, 39.0, 12.3.

20

Example 14:

Synthesis of nucleoside 8 from nucleoside 12.

Standard DMT-protection of the primary hydroxy group of nucleoside 12 (e.g. using the

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15 same procedure as for preparation of nucleoside 6 by DMT-protection of the primary hydroxy group of nucleoside 5) would give nucleoside 8 which can be used in the synthesis of α -L-ribo-LNA nucleoside phosphoramidite derivative 10 (see Figure 2 and the relevant examples).

30

Example 15:

9-(2-O-Acetyl-5-O-benzoyl-4-C-(benzyloxymethyl)-3-O-benzyl- α -L-ribofuranosyl)-6-N-benzoyladenine (14).

35

Sugar 3 (2.05 g) was dissolved in anhydrous acetonitrile (30 mL). N-6-Benzoyladenine (1.86 g) followed by SnCl₄ (1.3 mL) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at

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25 room temperature for 3.7 h whereupon a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ was added until neutralization. After filtration through Celite, the filtrate was washed successively with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (3 x 150 mL) and H₂O (2 x 150 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (40-60% NaOAc in petroleum ether) to

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30 give a fully protected nucleoside intermediate (1.40 g, 52% yield). This intermediate (1.29 g) was dissolved in methanol (35 mL) and a saturated solution of NH₃ in methanol (35 mL) was added. After stirring at 0 °C for 2.3 h, the mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (1% methanol in dichloromethane) to give an intermediate which was

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35 dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (40 mL). After cooling to -50 °C, anhydrous

5 pyridine (3 mL) was added together with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (0.65 mL). After stirring for 50 min, additional trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (0.65 mL) was added and stirring was continued at -10 °C for 1 h. Dichloromethane (100 mL) was added and washing was performed using a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (3 x 100 mL).

10 5 The separated organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to give an intermediate. This intermediate was dissolved in toluene (20 mL) and KOAc (0.85 g) and 18-crown-6 (0.92 g) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 7 h whereupon evaporation to dryness under reduced pressure afforded a residue which was purified by silica gel column chromatography (0-1.5% 15 methanol in dichloromethane) to give nucleoside 14 (1.1 g, 84% for three steps). δ_C (CDCl₃) 168.8, 165.8, 142.7, 136.0, 133.5, 133.3, 132.7, 129.6, 129.6, 128.8, 128.6, 20 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 83.8, 82.2, 78.4, 74.3, 70.8, 64.7, 63.4, 20.5. MS (m/z) 742.0 [M+H]⁺.

25 15 Example 16:
(1*R*,3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-7-Benzylxy-1-hydroxymethyl-3-(*N*-6-benzoyladenin-9-yl)-2,5-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (15).
Nucleoside 14 (3.05 g) was dissolved in a saturated solution of NH₃ in methanol (200 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 4 days whereupon a 33% aqueous solution of NH₃ (60 30 mL) was added and stirring was continued for 4 h. The mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to give an intermediate which was dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (100 mL). TMSCl (7.8 mL) was added and stirring was continued at room temperature for 5 h. After cooling to 0 °C, benzoyl chloride (2.4 mL) was added and stirring was continued at room temperature for 16 h. H₂O (50 mL) was added followed 35 after 5 min by a 25% saturated aqueous solution of NH₃ (25 mL). After stirring for 20 min at room temperature, the mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (2-5% methanol in dichloromethane) to give an intermediate (1.76 g, 87% over two steps). This intermediate (326 mg) was dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (50 mL) and mesyl chloride (0.11 mL) was 40 added at 0 °C under stirring. After stirring for 2 h, H₂O (5 mL) was added and the volume of the mixture was reduced to approximately 50% by evaporation under reduced pressure. Dichloromethane (100 mL) was added, and washing was performed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (3 x 20 mL). The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified 45 (50 by silica gel column chromatography (2-4% methanol in dichloromethane) to give an 55

5 intermediate (284 mg). This intermediate (354 mg) was dissolved in a mixture of dioxane (15 mL), H₂O (15 mL) and 2 M NaOH (5.5 mL). After stirring for 72 h under reflux, a 7% (w/w) solution of HCl in dioxane was added until neutralization. Washing was performed
10 with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (2 x 100 mL) and the organic phase was
5 dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was
purified by silica gel column chromatography (0-4% methanol in dichloromethane) to give
15 the bicyclic nucleoside 15 (24 mg). δ_C ((CD₃)₂SO) 156.0, 152.6, 149.4, 138.8, 138.0,
128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 118.3, 89.7, 83.9, 79.7, 77.0, 73.0, 71.2, 57.2. δ_H ((CD₃)₂SO) 8.38
10 (1H, s), 8.14 (1H, s), 7.40-7.30 (7H, m), 6.37 (1H, s), 5.06 (1H, t, J 5.8 Hz), 4.73-4.66 (3H,
10 m), 4.46 (1H, s), 4.15 (1H, d, J 8.4 Hz), 4.04 (1H, d, J 8.2 Hz), 3.75 (2H, d, J 5.7 Hz).

20 Example 17:

(1*S,3R,4S,7R*)-7-(2-Cyanoethoxy(diisopropylamino)phosphinoxy)-1-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityloxymethyl)-3-(6-*N*-benzoyladenin-9-yl)-2,5-

15 dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (16).

DMT-protection of nucleoside 15 followed by debenzylation and 3'-O-phosphitylation is expected to furnish phosphoramidite derivative 16. Another possible route affording 16 from nucleoside 15 is debenzylation of 15 followed by selective DMT-protection of the primary hydroxyl group and eventual 3'-O-phosphitylation. The reactions outlined in this

30 20 example follows standard procedures (See, e.g.: Koshkin, A. A., Singh, S. K., Nielsen, P., Rajwanshi, V. K., Kumar, R., Meldgaard, M., Olsen, C. E., Wengel, J. *Tetrahedron* 1998, 54, 3607).

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Table 1:

Sequence ^a		T _m (°C) ^b	T _m (°C) ^c
5'-T ₇ XT ₆	(A)	32	33
5'-T ₅ X ₄ T ₅	(C)	36	46
5'-T ₃ (Y) ₄ (X) ₄ T ₃	(F)	64	63
5'-X ₉ T	(G)	63	66
5'-T ₁₀	(E')	24/20	18
5'-T ₁₄	(E)	32	28

^a X = monomer derived from phosphoramidite 10^b Y = LNA monomers containing a 2'-O,4'-C-methylene bridge, cf. Singh et al. (above)^b Complexed with 5'-dA₁₄^c Complexed with 5'-rA₁₄

Table 2:

Sequence ^a	rA ₁₄ T _m (°C)	5'-r(A ₆ CA ₇) T _m (°C)	ent-rA ₁₄ T _m (°C)	ent-5'-r(A ₆ CA ₇) T _m (°C)
T ₁₀	18	no T _m ^c	no T _m ^c	no T _m ^c
5'-(Y) ₉ T	71	61	52	51
5'-(X) ₉ T	66	49	39	no T _m ^c
5'-(xylo-Y) ₉ T	57	47	39	36
5'-(xylo-X) ₉ T	no T _m ^d	no T _m ^d	no T _m ^d	no T _m ^d

^a as above for Table 1;^d no co-operative melting point T_m was measured in the temperature range 10 - 95 °C

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Table 3:

Entry	5'-d(GZGAZAZGC) vs:						
	3'-d(CACTNTACG)			3'-r(CACUNUACG)			
	N =	A	C	T	G	A	C
Entry		T _m (°C)					
1 Z = T		28/28*	11/13*	12/15*	19/20*	28/29*	10/no T _m *
2 Z = Y		44	23	27	30	50	33
3 Z = X		37	19	19	28	45	23

^{*} results of two identical experiments

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Claims

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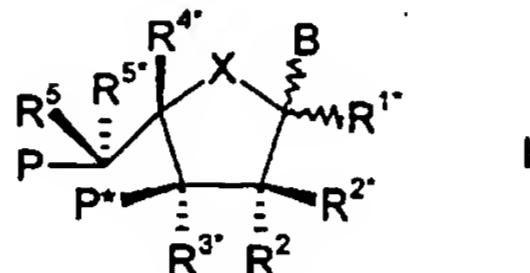
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CLAIMS

1. An oligomer comprising at least one nucleoside analogue of the general formula I

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5 wherein X is selected from -O-, -S-, -N(R^N)-, -C(R⁶R⁶)-;

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B is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-acyloxy, nucleobases, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups,

10 reporter groups, and ligands;

25

P designates the radical position for an internucleoside linkage to a succeeding monomer, or a 5'-terminal group, such internucleoside linkage or 5'-terminal group optionally including the substituent R⁵ or equally applicable the substituent R^{5'};

30

15 P* designates an internucleoside linkage to a preceding monomer, or a 3'-terminal group;

35

R^{2'} and R^{4'} designate biradicals consisting of 1-4 groups/atoms selected from -C(R^aR^b)-, -C(R^a)=C(R^a)-, -C(R^a)=N-, -O-, -Si(R^a)₂-, -S-, -SO₂-, -N(R^a)-, and >C=Z,20 wherein Z is selected from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^a)-, and R^a and R^b each is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-

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25 aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro, azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups,

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30 and ligands, where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted, and where

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two geminal substituents R^a and R^b together may designate optionally substituted methylene olefin ($=CH_2$);

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each of the substituents R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , and R^7 which are present is
5 independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-12} -alkoxy, C_{2-12} -alkenyloxy, carboxy, C_{1-12} -alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-12} -alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and 10 di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, C_{1-6} -alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro, azido, sulphanyl, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, 15 halogen, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, where aryl and heteroaryl may be 20 optionally substituted, and where two geminal substituents together may designate oxo, 25 thioxo, imino, or optionally substituted methylene, or together may form a spiro biradical consisting of a 1-5 carbon atom(s) alkylene chain which is optionally interrupted and/or terminated by one or more heteroatoms/groups selected from -O-, -S-, and -(NR^N)- where 30 R^N is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4} -alkyl, and where two adjacent (non-geminal) 35 substituents may designate an additional bond resulting in a double bond; and R^N , when present is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4} -alkyl;

35

and basic salts and acid addition salts thereof.

40

25 2. An oligomer according to claim 1, comprising 1-10000 L-ribo-LNA(s) of the general formula I and 0-10000 nucleosides selected from naturally occurring nucleosides and nucleoside analogues, with the proviso that the sum of the number of nucleosides and the 40 number of L-ribo-LNA(s) is at least 2, preferably at least 3, such as in the range of 2-15000.

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30 3. An oligomer according to claim 2, wherein at least one L-ribo-LNA comprises a nucleobase as the substituent B.

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4. An oligomer according to claim 2, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises at least 7, preferably at least 9, in particular at least 11, especially at least 13 successive L-ribo-LNA monomers.

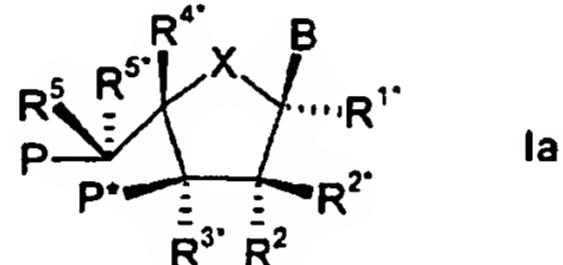
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5. An oligomer according to claim 2, wherein all nucleoside monomers of an oligomer are L-ribo-LNA.

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6. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-5, wherein the L-ribo-LNA(s) has/have the following formula Ia

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wherein P, P', B, X, R^{1'}, R², R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{4'}, R^{5'}, and R^{5''} are as defined in claim 1.

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7. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-6, wherein X is selected from -(CR⁸R^{8''})-, -O-, -S-, and -N(R^{N''})-, preferably -O-, -S-, and -N(R^{N''})-, in particular -O-.

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8. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-7, wherein the biradical constituted by R² and R^{4'} is selected from -(CR^rR^s)-, -Y-(CR^rR^s)-, -(CR^rR^s)-Y-(CR^rR^s)-Y-, -Y-(CR^rR^s)-Y-(CR^rR^s)-, -(CR^rR^s)-Y-, -Y-, -Y-Y-, wherein each Y is independently selected from -O-, -S-, -Si(R^r)₂-, -N(R^s)-, >C=O, -C(=O)-N(R^s)-, and -N(R^s)-C(=O)-, each R^r is

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independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, azido, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and/or two adjacent (non-geminal) R^r may together designate a double bond, and each of r and s is 0-4 with the proviso that the sum r+s is 1-4.

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9. An oligomer according to claim 8, wherein the biradical is selected from -Y-, -(CR^rR^s)-, -(CR^rR^s)-Y-(CR^rR^s)-, and -Y-(CR^rR^s)-Y-, wherein each of r and s is 0-3 with the proviso that the sum r+s is 1-4.

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30

5 10. An oligomer according to claim 9, wherein the biradical is selected from $-O\cdot$, $-S\cdot$, $-N(R\cdot)$, $-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}$, $-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_rO-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{s\cdot}$, $-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_rS-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{s\cdot}$, $-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_rN(R\cdot)-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{s\cdot}$, $(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s\cdot}$, $-O-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}O\cdot$, $-S-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}O\cdot$, $-O-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}S\cdot$, $-N(R\cdot)-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}O\cdot$, $-O-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}N(R\cdot)$, $-S-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}S\cdot$, $-N(R\cdot)-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}N(R\cdot)$, $-N(R\cdot)-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}S\cdot$, and $-S-(CR\cdot R\cdot)_{r+s-1\cdot}N(R\cdot)$, wherein each of r and s is 0-3 with the proviso that the sum $r+s$ is 1-4, and where X is selected from $-O\cdot$, $-S\cdot$, and $-N(R^H)$ where R^H designates hydrogen or C_{1-4} -alkyl.

15 11. An oligomer according to claim 10, wherein X is O , R^2 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, and optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, and $R^{1\cdot}$, $R^{3\cdot}$, R^6 , and $R^{5\cdot}$ designate hydrogen.

20 12. An oligomer according to claim 11, wherein the biradical is selected from $-O\cdot$, $-(CH_2)_{0-1\cdot}O-(CH_2)_{1-3\cdot}$, $-(CH_2)_{0-1\cdot}S-(CH_2)_{1-3\cdot}$, and $-(CH_2)_{0-1\cdot}N(R^N)-(CH_2)_{1-3\cdot}$, such as $-O-CH_2\cdot$, $-S-CH_2\cdot$ and $-N(R^N)-CH_2\cdot$.

25 13. An oligomer according to any of the claims 11-12, wherein B is selected from nucleobases.

30 20 14. An oligomer according to claim 8, wherein the biradical is $-(CH_2)_{2-4\cdot}$.

35 15. An oligomer according to any of the claims 8-10, wherein one $R\cdot$ is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, 25 chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and any remaining substituents $R\cdot$ are hydrogen.

40 16. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-15, wherein any internucleoside linkage of the L-ribo-LNA(s) is selected from linkages consisting of 2 to 4, preferably 3, groups/atoms selected from $-CH_2\cdot$, $-O\cdot$, $-S\cdot$, $-NR^H\cdot$, $>C=O$, $>C=NR^H$, $>C=S$, $-Si(R'')_2\cdot$, $-SO\cdot$, $-S(O)_2\cdot$, $-P(O)_2\cdot$, $-P(O,S)\cdot$, $-P(S)_2\cdot$, $-PO(R'')\cdot$, $-PO(OCH_3)\cdot$, and $-PO(NHR^H)\cdot$, where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4} -alkyl, and R'' is selected from C_{1-6} -alkyl and phenyl.

45 50 17. An oligomer according to claim 16, wherein any internucleoside linkage of the L-ribo-LNA(s) is selected from $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2\cdot$, $-CH_2-CO-CH_2\cdot$, $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2\cdot$, $-O-CH_2-O\cdot$,

5

-O-CH₂-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-CH=, -CH₂-CH₂-O-, -NR^H-CH₂-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-NR^H-, -CH₂-NR^H-CH₂-,

-O-CH₂-CH₂-NR^H-, -NR^H-CO-O-, -NR^H-CO-NR^H-, -NR^H-CS-NR^H-,

-NR^H-C(=NR^H)-NR^H-, -NR^H-CO-CH₂-NR^H-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-CH₂-O-, -O-CH₂-CO-O-,

-CH₂-CO-NR^H-, -O-CO-NR^H-, -NR^H-CO-CH₂-, -O-CH₂-CO-NR^H-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-NR^H-, -

10

5 CH=N-O-, -CH₂-NR^H-O-, -CH₂-O-N=, -CH₂-O-NR^H-, -CO-NR^H-CH₂-, -CH₂-NR^H-O-, -CH₂-NR^H-CO-, -O-NR^H-CH₂-, -O-NR^H-, -O-CH₂-S-, -S-CH₂-O-, -CH₂-CH₂-S-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -

15

S-CH₂-CH=, -S-CH₂-CH₂-, -S-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -S-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -CH₂-S-CH₂-, -CH₂-SO-CH₂-, -CH₂-SO₂-CH₂-, -O-SO-O-, -O-S(O)₂-O-, -O-S(O)₂-CH₂-, -O-S(O)₂-NR^H-, -NR^H-S(O)₂-CH₂-,

20

-O-S(O)₂-CH₂-, -O-P(O)₂-O-, -O-P(O,S)-O-, -O-P(S)₂-O-, -S-P(O)₂-O-, -S-P(O,S)-O-, -S-

10 P(S)₂-O-, -O-P(O)₂-S-, -O-P(O,S)-S-, -O-P(S)₂-S-, -S-P(O)₂-S-, -S-P(O,S)-S-, -S-P(S)₂-S-, -O-PO(R^H)-O-, -O-PO(OCH₃)-O-, -O-PO(BH₃)-O-, -O-PO(NHR^N)-O-, -O-P(O)₂-NR^H-, -NR^H-P(O)₂-O-, -O-P(O, NR^H)-O-, and -O-Si(R^H)₂-O-.

18. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-17, wherein each of the substituents R¹,

25

15 R², R³, R⁵, R^{5'}, R⁶ and R^{6'} of the L-ribo-LNA(s), which are present, is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, azido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy,

30

20 sulphono, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and halogen, where two geminal substituents together may designate oxo, and where R^N, when present and not involved in a biradical, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl.

35

25 19. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-18, wherein X is selected from -O-, -S-, and -NR^N-, and each of the substituents R¹, R², R³, R⁵, R^{5'}, R⁶ and R^{6'} of the L-ribo-LNA(s), which are present, designate hydrogen.

40

20. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-19, wherein P is a 5'-terminal group

45

30 selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, and -W-A', wherein W is selected from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^H)- where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl, and where A' is selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active

50

35 groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands.

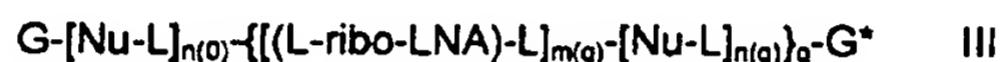
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10 21. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-20, wherein P^* is a 3'-terminal group selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, and -W-A', wherein W is selected
 5 from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^H)- where R^H is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6} -alkyl, and where A' is selected from DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands.

15

10 22. An oligomer according to any of the claims 1-21, having the following formula III:

20



25 wherein

29 q is 1-50;

15 each of $n(0)$, ..., $n(q)$ is independently 0-10000;

each of $m(1)$, ..., $m(q)$ is independently 1-10000;

with the proviso that the sum of $n(0)$, ..., $n(q)$ and $m(1)$, ..., $m(q)$ is 2-15000;

30 G designates a 5'-terminal group;

each Nu independently designates a nucleoside selected from naturally occurring

20 nucleosides and nucleoside analogues;

each L-ribo-LNA independently designates a nucleoside analogue;

each L independently designates an internucleoside linkage between two groups selected

35 from Nu and L-ribo-LNA, or L together with G* designates a 3'-terminal group; and

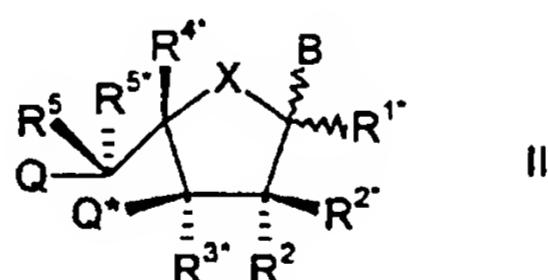
each L-ribo-LNA-L independently designates a nucleoside analogue of the general

25 formula I.

40

23. A nucleoside analogue (L-ribo-LNA) of the general formula II

45



55

50 wherein the substituent B is selected from nucleobases, DNA intercalators,

30 photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands;

5

X is selected from -O-, -S-, -N(R^N)-, and -C(R⁶R⁶)-;

each of Q and Q' is independently selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro,

5 hydroxy, Prot-O-, Act-O-, mercapto, Prot-S-, Act-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Prot-N(R^H)-, .
Act-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally
substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-
15 alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyloxy,
monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, DNA intercalators, photochemically active

10 groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands,
carboxy, sulphono, hydroxymethyl, Prot-O-CH₂-, Act-O-CH₂-, aminomethyl, Prot-N(R^H)-
20 CH₂-, Act-N(R^H)-CH₂-, carboxymethyl, sulphonomethyl, where Prot is a protection group
for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, Act is an activation group for -OH, -SH, and -
NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

15 R² and R⁴ together designate a biradical selected from -O-, -(CR'R')_{r+s+1}-, -(CR'R')_rO-
(CR'R')_s-, -(CR'R')_rS-(CR'R')_s-, -(CR'R')_r-N(R)-(CR'R')_s-, -O-(CR'R')_{r+s}O-, -S-(CR'R')_{r+s}-
O-, -O-(CR'R')_{r+s}S-, -N(R)-(CR'R')_{r+s}O-, -O-(CR'R')_{r+s}-N(R)-, -S-(CR'R')_{r+s}S-, -
30 N(R)-(CR'R')_{r+s}-N(R)-, -N(R)-(CR'R')_{r+s}-S-, and -S-(CR'R')_{r+s}-N(R)-;

20 wherein each R' is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, azido, cyano, nitro,
hydroxy, mercapto, amino, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy,
35 optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups,
thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, and/or

25 two adjacent (non-geminal) R' may together designate a double bond, and each of r and s
is 0-3 with the proviso that the sum r+s is 1-4;

40

each of the present substituents R¹, R², R³, R⁵, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁶ is independently selected
from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl,

45 optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₁₂-
alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, aryl, aryloxy-carbonyl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl,
heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and
50 di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-
aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-

55 35 carbonylamino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro,

55

5 azido, sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, halogen, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, and ligands, where aryl and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted, and where two geminal substituents together may designate oxo, thioxo, imino, or optionally substituted

10 5 methylene, or together may form a spiro biradical consisting of a 1-5 carbon atom(s) alkylene chain which is optionally interrupted and/or terminated by one or more heteroatoms/groups selected from -O-, -S-, and -(NR^N)- where R^N is selected from

15 hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl, and where two adjacent (non-geminal) substituents may designate an additional bond resulting in a double bond; and R^{N'}, when present and not

10 involved in a biradical, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl;

20 and basic salts and acid addition salts thereof;

25 and with the proviso that any chemical group (including any nucleobase), which is reactive

15 under the conditions prevailing in oligonucleotide synthesis, is optionally functional group protected.

30 24. A nucleoside analogue according to claim 23, wherein the group B is selected from nucleobases and functional group protected nucleobases.

20 25. A nucleoside analogue according to any of the claims 23-24, wherein X is selected from -O-, -S-, and -N(R^{N'})-.

35 26. A nucleoside analogue according to any of the claims 23-25, wherein each of the

25 substituents R^{1'}, R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{5'}, R^{6'}, and R⁶', which are present, is independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)-amino-carbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, carbamido, azido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, sulphono,

40 30 sulphanyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands, and halogen, where two geminal substituents together may designate oxo, and where R^{N'}, when

45 present and not involved in a biradical, is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄-alkyl, with the proviso that any hydroxy, amino, mono(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, sulfanyl, and carboxy is

50 35 optionally protected.

5

27. A nucleoside analogue according to any of the claims 23-26, each of the substituents R^{1'}, R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{5'}, R^{5''}, R^{6'} and R^{6''}, which are present, designate hydrogen.

10

5 28. A nucleoside analogue according to any of the claims 23-27, wherein Q is independently selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Prot-O-, mercapto, Prot-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Prot-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl, 10 optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyoxy, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands, carboxy, sulphono, hydroxymethyl, Prot-O-CH₂-, aminomethyl, Prot-N(R^H)-CH₂-, carboxymethyl, sulphonomethyl, where Prot is a 20 protection group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from 25 hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

20

Q' is selected from hydrogen, azido, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, Act-O-, mercapto, Act-S-, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, amino, Act-N(R^H)-, mono- or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, optionally 30 substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyl, 20 optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆-alkynyoxy, DNA intercalators, photochemically active groups, thermochemically active groups, chelating groups, reporter groups, ligands, carboxy, 35 sulphono, where Act is an activation group for -OH, -SH, and -NH(R^H), respectively, and R^H is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl.

25

40

29. A nucleoside analogue according to any of the claims 23-28, wherein X is O, R² selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, and optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, and R^{1'}, R³, R⁵, and R^{5'} designate hydrogen.

45

30 30. A nucleoside analogue according to claims 23-29, wherein the biradical is selected from -O-, -(CH₂)₀₋₁-O-(CH₂)₁₋₃-, -(CH₂)₀₋₁-S-(CH₂)₁₋₃-, and -(CH₂)₀₋₁-N(R^N)-(CH₂)₁₋₃-.

50

31. A nucleoside analogue according to claim 30, wherein the biradical is selected from -O-CH₂-, -S-CH₂- and -N(R^N)-CH₂-.

35

55

5

32. A nucleoside analogue according to claim 23-31, wherein the biradical is $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, preferably $-(CH_2)_2-$.

10

5 33. A conjugate of a L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-26 and a compound selected from proteins, amplicons, enzymes, polysaccharides, antibodies, haptens, peptides, and PNA.

15

10 34. The use of an L-ribo-LNA as defined in any of the claims 23-32 for the preparation of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) according to any of the claims 1-34.

20

35. The use according to claim 33, wherein the incorporation of L-ribo-LNA modulates the ability of the oligonucleotide to act as a substrate for nucleic acid active enzymes.

25

15 36. The use of a L-ribo-LNA as defined in any of the claims 23-32 for the preparation of a conjugate of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide and a compound selected from proteins, amplicons, enzymes, polysaccharides, antibodies, haptens, peptides, and PNA.

30

37. The use of a L-ribo-LNA as defined in any of the claims 23-32 as a substrate for enzymes active on nucleic acids.

35

38. The use according to claim 37, wherein the L-ribo-LNA is used as a substrate for DNA and RNA polymerases.

40

25 39. The use of an L-ribo-LNA as defined in any of the claims 23-32 as a therapeutic agent.

45

49. The use of an L-ribo-LNA as defined in any of the claims 23-32 for diagnostic purposes.

30

40. The use of one or more L-ribo-LNA as defined in any of the claims 23-32 in the construction of solid surface onto which LNA modified oligonucleotides of different sequences are attached .

50

55

5

41. The use of L-ribo-LNA modified oligomers (ribozymes) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 in the sequence specific cleavage of target nucleic acids.

10

42. The use of a L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 in therapy, such as an antisense, an antigen or a gene activating therapeutic.

15

43. The use according to claim 42, wherein the LNA modified oligonucleotide recruits RNaseH.

20

44. The use of complexes of more than one L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) said oligonucleotides being defined according to any of the claims 1-22, in therapy, such as as an antisense, an antigen or gene activating therapeutic.

25

45. The use of an α -L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 6-22 in therapy, wherein the α -L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide specifically interact with RNA selected from the group consisting of tRNAs, rRNAs, snRNAs and scRNAs thereby inhibiting any of the following cellular processes selected from the group consisting of translation, RNA splicing, RNA processing, and other essential cellular processes.

30

46. The use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 6-22 in diagnostics such as for the isolation, purification, amplification, detection, identification, quantification, or capture of natural or synthetic nucleic acids.

35

47. The use of an α -L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 6-22 in diagnostics such as for the isolation, purification, amplification, detection, identification, quantification, or capture of natural or synthetic nucleic acids, said α -L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide being able to discriminate between RNA and DNA thereby selectively hybridizing to the target RNA.

40

48. The use according to any of claims 46 or 47, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a photochemically active group, a thermochemically active group, a chelating group, a reporter group, or a ligand that facilitates the direct or indirect detection of the oligonucleotide or the immobilisation of the oligonucleotide onto a solid support.

55

5

49. The use according to claim 48, wherein the photochemically active group, the thermochemically active group, the chelating group, the reporter group, or the ligand includes a spacer (K), said spacer comprising a chemically cleavable group.

10

5

50. The use according to claim 49, wherein the photochemically active group, the thermochemically active group, the chelating group, the reporter group, or the ligand is attached via the biradical (i.e. as R') of at least one of the LNA(s) of the oligonucleotide.

15

20

10 51. The use according to claim 50 for capture and detection of naturally occurring or synthetic double stranded or single stranded nucleic acids such as RNA or DNA.

15

52. The use according to claim 47 for purification of naturally occurring double stranded or single stranded nucleic acids such as RNA or DNA.

25

53. The use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 as an aptamer in molecular diagnostics.

30

30 54. The use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 as an aptamer in RNA mediated catalytic processes.

35

55. The use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 as an aptamer in specific binding of antibiotics, drugs, amino acids, peptides, structural proteins, protein receptors, protein enzymes, saccharides, 25 polysaccharides, biological cofactors, nucleic acids, or triphosphates.

40

56. The use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 as an aptamer in the separation of enantiomers from racemic mixtures by stereospecific binding.

45

30 57. The use of a L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 for the labelling of cells.

50

55

5

58. The use of an L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 to hybridise to non-protein coding cellular RNAs, such as tRNA, rRNA, snRNA and scRNA, *in vivo* or *in-vitro*.

10

5 59. The use of a L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotide (an oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22 in the construction of an oligonucleotide comprising a fluorophor and a quencher, positioned in such a way that the hybridised state of the oligonucleotide can be distinguished from the unbound state of the oligonucleotide by an increase in the fluorescent signal from the probe.

15

10 60. A kit for the isolation, purification, amplification, detection, identification, quantification, or capture of natural or synthetic nucleic acids, the kit comprising a reaction body and one or more L-ribo-LNA modified oligonucleotides (oligomer) as defined in any of the claims 1-22.

20

15 61. A kit for the isolation, purification, amplification, detection, identification, quantification, or capture of natural or synthetic nucleic acids, the kit comprising a reaction body and one or more L-ribo-LNAs as defined in any of the claims 23-32.

25

30 20 62. A kit according to claim 60 or 61, wherein the L-ribo-LNAs are immobilised onto said reactions body.

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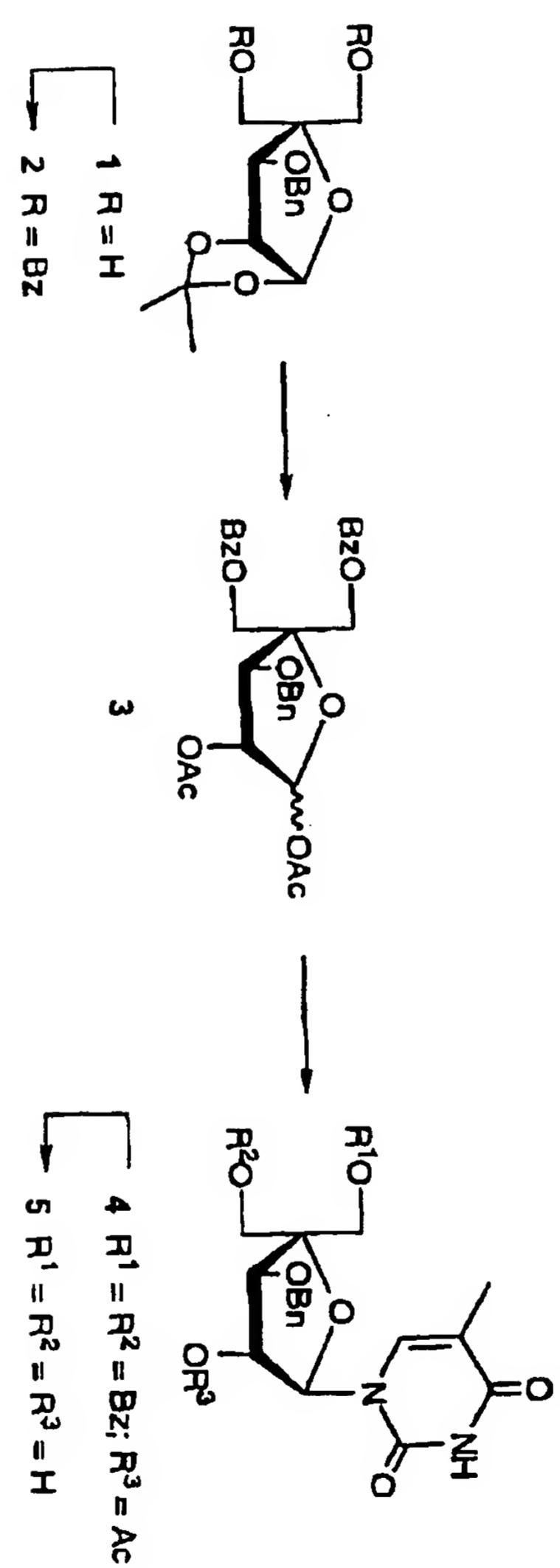


Fig. 1

Fig. 1

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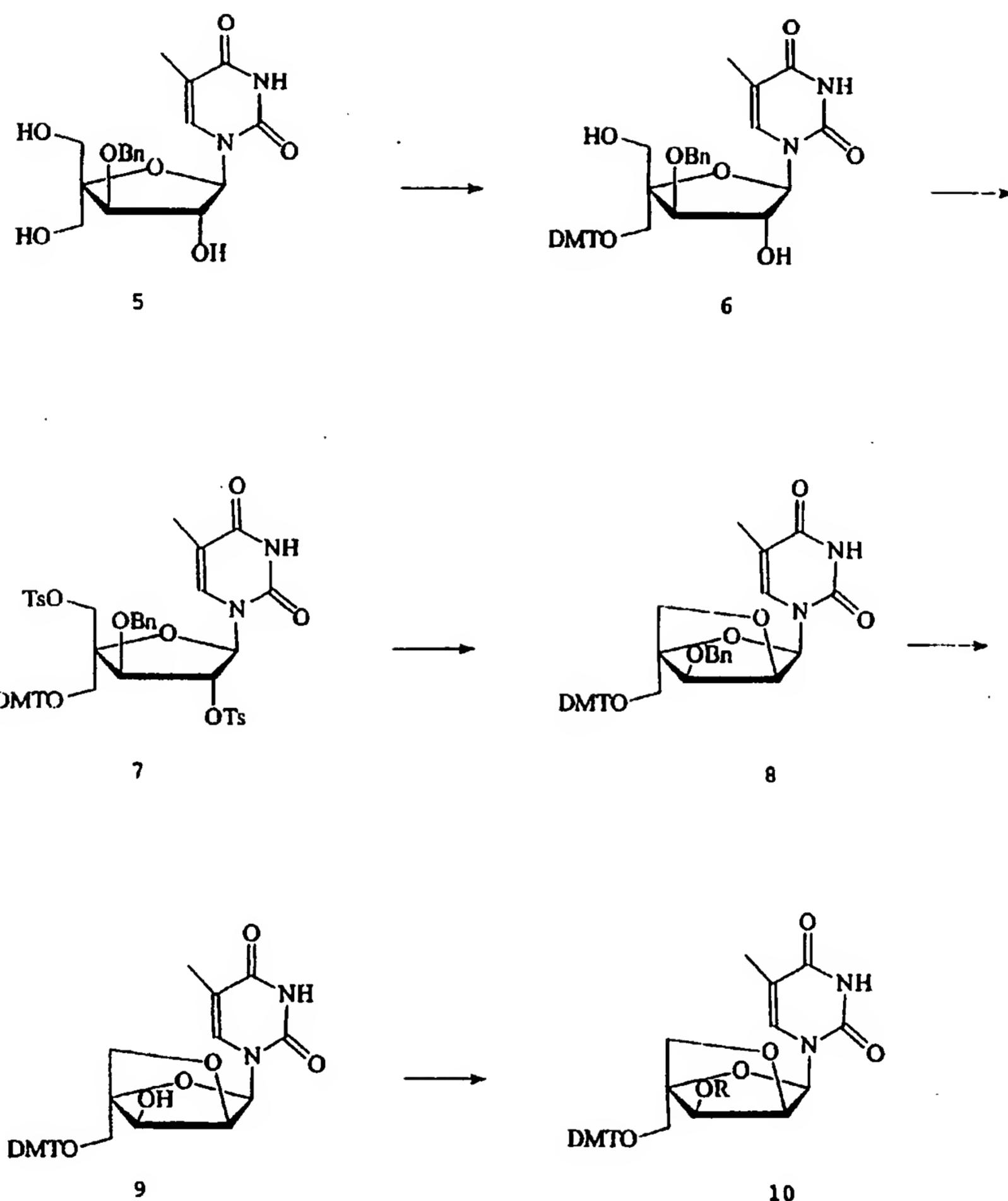


Fig. 2

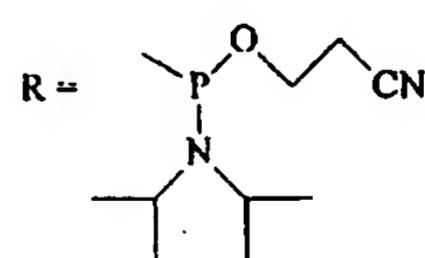


Fig. 2

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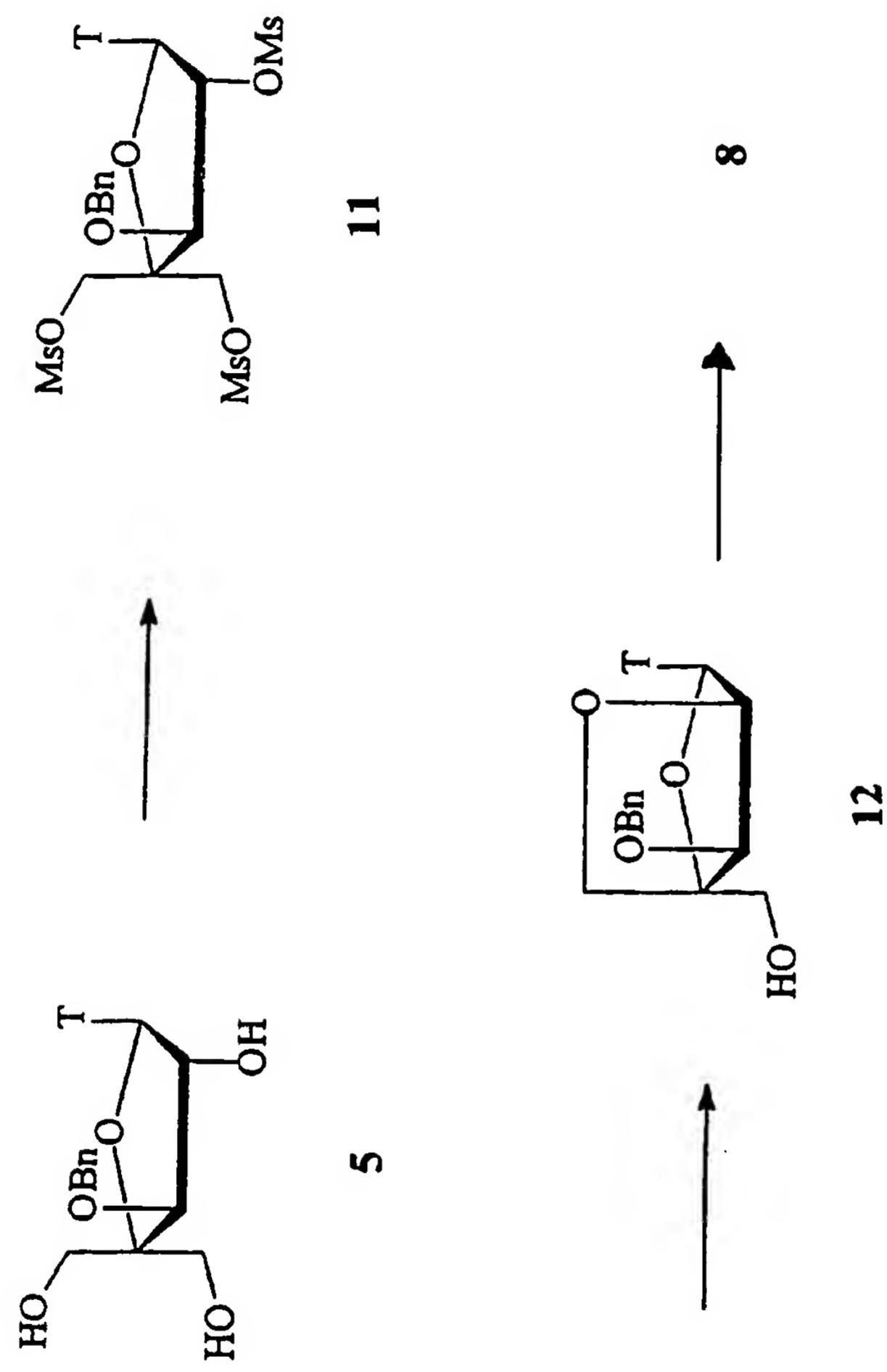
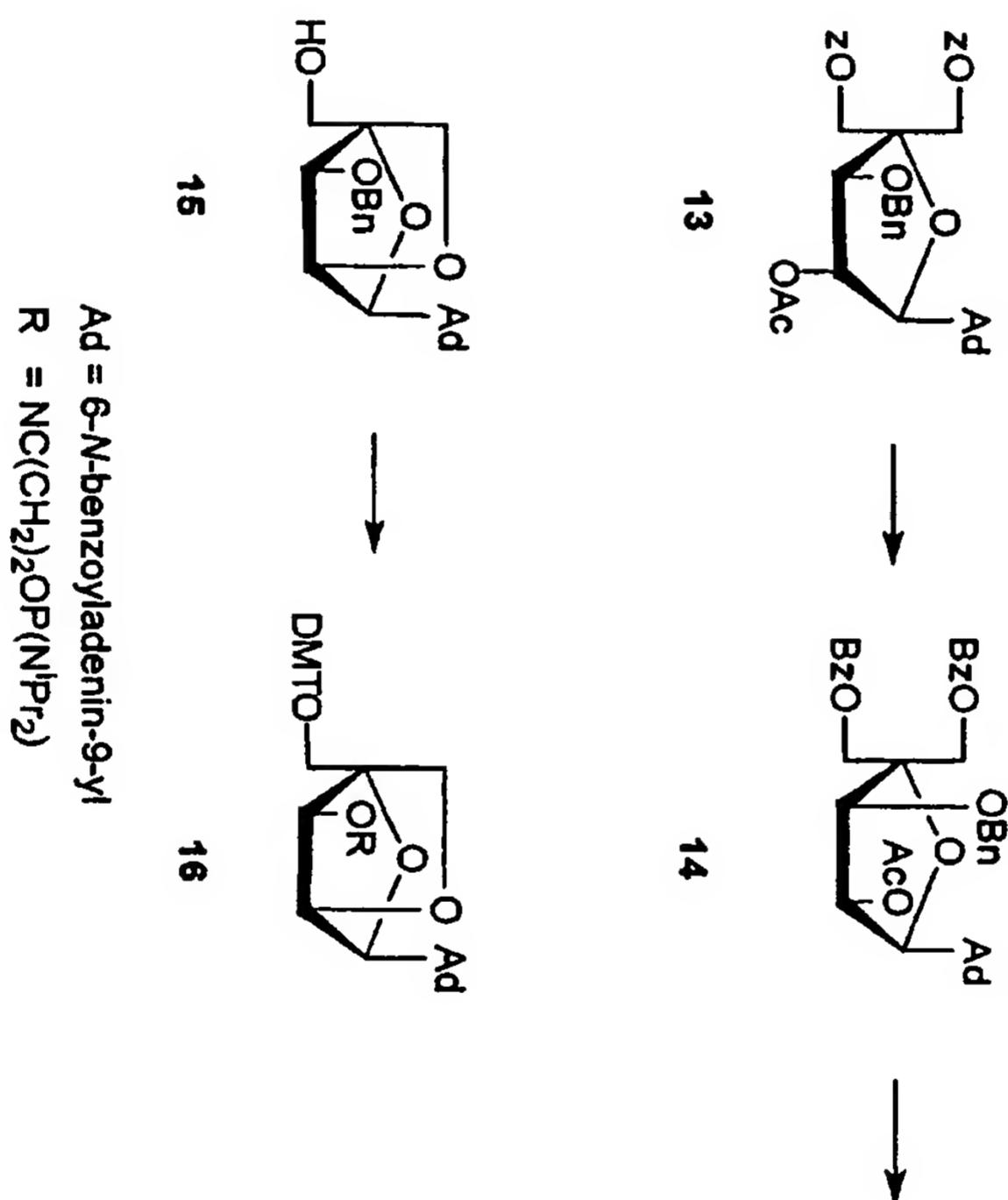


Fig. 3

Fig. 3

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Fig. 4



Ad = 6-N-benzoyladenin-9-yl
 R = NC(CH₂)₂OP(N*i*Pr₂)

Fig. 4



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(S1) International Patent Classification: C07H 19/06, C07H 21/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/56748 (43) International Publication Date: 28 September 2000 (28.09.2000)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00125		Published
(22) International Filing Date: 17 March 2000 (17.03.2000)		
(30) Priority Data: PA 1999 00382 18 March 1999 (18.03.1999) DK PA 1999 01224 01 September 1999 (01.09.1999) DK		
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(54) Title: XYLO-LNA ANALOGUES
(54) Titre: ANALOGUES DE XYLO-LNA

(57) Abstract

A bicyclic nucleoside derivative, wherein an intranucleoside ring locks the ring conformation of the nucleoside, is termed an LNA - a <u>L</u>ocked <u>N</u>ucleic <u>A</u>cid. LNAs of the xylo-configuration, considered useful as therapeutic agents, diagnostic agents and useful for the formation of oligonucleotides, have been prepared. These oligonucleotides are also useful as a therapeutic and in diagnostic fields. Furthermore, oligonucleotides comprising LNAs of the xylo-configuration are useful for high-affinity targeting of complementary single stranded and double stranded DNA and RNA and have interesting activity with regards to specificity and affinity to oligonucleotides.

(57) Abrégé

Un dérivé nucléosidique bicyclique, dans lequel un cycle intranucléosidique bloque la conformation cyclique du nucléoside, est appelé LNA acide nucléique bloqué. Des LNA de configuration xylo, considérés utiles en tant qu'agents thérapeutiques, agents diagnostiques et pour la formation d'oligonucléotides, ont été préparés. Ces oligonucléotides sont également utiles en tant qu'agents thérapeutiques et dans les domaines diagnostiques. Par ailleurs, des oligonucléotides comprenant les LNA de configuration xylo sont utiles pour le ciblage à affinité élevée d'ADN et d'ARN simple et double brin et possèdent une activité intéressante pour ce qui concerne la spécificité et l'affinité par rapport aux oligonucléotides.